

*Hafa Adai!*

Tudela has prior 'ice' related arrest in 2000.

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Seven winners so far in NMASA scratch card lottery.

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# Saipan Tribune

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## Suit vs handgun prohibition dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed yesterday a couple's lawsuit that challenges the constitutionality of the CNMI Weapons Control Act, which prohibits residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes. The case was dismissed for lack of standing.



Manglona

Manglona, however, allowed plaintiffs David J. Radich and Li-Rong Radich to file by March 24, 2015, an amended complaint to include the handgun import ban.

The judge said the Radich couple has the duty to establish their legal standing to vindicate their Second Amendment right to bear handguns in self-defense.

Manglona said that since the current defendant, Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero, cannot provide the full remedy the Radich couple seeks

for their alleged constitutional injury, they must join the official in charge of enforcing the handgun import ban.

**See SUIT on Page 4**

## OPA: CHCC may not have means to keep operating

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. incurred an operating loss of \$5.6 million and a massive \$14.7 million in bad debts in 2013, a report from the Office of the Public Auditor said.

The OPA released Tuesday its financial audit of the corpora-

tion, which showed the dismal performance of the medical institution.

» **Audit cites bad debts, operating loss for CHCC in 2013**

"This means that CHCC may not have the resources to continue operating in the foreseeable future. Recurring and increasing losses and negative cash flows may create an unsustainable position for CHCC that may result

**See OPA on Page 4**

## Ancient graves to be exhumed for BSI project

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**  
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REPORTER

Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s archaeological project in Garapan would involve entering 18 burial sites and exhuming the remains of ancient Chamorros.

The CNMI Historic Preservation Office has approved

both the inventory survey and discovery report, and planning document for the data recovery and burial treatment, according to letters to BSI in February.

Archaeologists David Perzinski and Dr. Michael Dega of Scientific Consultant Services Inc. prepared the studies, which

**See ANCIENT on Page 4**

## Contrasting views on BSI plan for Garapan land



"Not that site, please!" Jose Kaipat makes a point at Best Sunshine CEO Mark Brown, not seen in photo, during a public hearing Monday night. Best Sunshine's proposed archaeological data recovery project is on grounds that Kaipat believes to be a burial site for ancient Chamorros and Carolinians.

DENNIS B. CHAN

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**  
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REPORTER

The public heard Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s "archaeological data recovery project" plans for its proposed site in Garapan on Monday night at the Pedro P.

Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CNMI regulatory officials must approve the site permitting before the dig can begin. This would be separate and prior to an approval or building of Best Sunshine-owned infrastructure.

Business leaders, attorneys, lawmakers, and education officials were present at the packed hearing.

A majority of those who spoke supported the proposal. One couple notably engaged in a back and forth between comments, taking the micro-

phone to argue their cause several times.

Businessman Alex Sablan supported the project and "anticipated the recovery of different artifacts." It would be an "opportunity to see" and showcase Chamorros

**See BSI on Page 4**

### INSIDE



#### NATION

The number of American households with at least one gun is lower than ever.

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#### WORLD

Four years later, Syria continues its march toward destruction.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

Costume designer dresses 'Cinderella' for success in the new Disney movie.

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## Local

# 'Population of Pacific golden-plovers declining'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Have you ever noticed this group of spotted gold long-legged birds on the grass near Hollywood Theaters and Joeten Superstore in San Jose, Saipan? Enjoy them while you can because these birds, called the Pacific golden-plovers, will be leaving for Siberia soon.

In the CNMI and Guam, Chamorros call these birds *dulili*, while Carolinians call them *ghuling*.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry about these birds, Division of Fish & Wildlife conservation planner Jill Liske-Clark said yesterday that most Pacific golden-plovers will depart in April for Siberia, where they will nest.

"Siberia may be a good place to raise chicks in the summer but it just isn't a hospitable place for a shorebird to live in the wintertime, so they come south," Liske-Clark said.

These birds, she said, will return to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in September.

She said other Pacific golden-plovers nest in Alaska, but researchers who tagged some of these birds in the CNMI many years back found that the birds that do come here go to Siberia, probably via Japan.

She said these birds are wintering across the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and Australia.

Liske-Clark said Pacific golden-plovers are a "shorebird" so people can see them also on the shoreline, especially on mud flats at low tide.

"But here on Saipan, we see more on mowed lawns like at former Costco. I also see a lot on the high school's playing fields," she said.

The conservation planner said the most of these birds can be found at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

She said that during this year's DFW's annual Christmas Bird Count, they counted a



The migratory Pacific golden-plovers seen here on the grass near Hollywood Theaters in San Jose, Saipan, are expected to leave for Siberia by next month. These birds will return to the CNMI in September. The Division of Fish and Wildlife's bird count data confirms that the population of these birds is declining.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

couple of hundred at the airport.

Liske-Clark said Pacific golden-plovers are not endangered,

but their population is thought to be declining globally.

She disclosed that DFW's annual Christmas Bird Count Data, which they started collecting in 1990, appears to confirm the declining population.

"I don't know the reason for

the decline, but since it is being seen globally, I suspect that it is an issue on the breeding grounds, rather than wintering grounds like Saipan," Liske-Clark said.

Pacific golden-plovers sleep on the ground. They hunt insects and

other invertebrates by sight.

As to why it looks like they barely move at all, Liske-Clark explained that these birds are stealthy hunters.

"When they see a prey, they'll run up quick and grab it," she said.

## MVA posts \$9.9M revenue in 2014

The Marianas Visitors Authority posted total revenue of \$9.9 million from its share of the hotel occupancy tax in 2014 for a modest 6-percent gain compared to 2013.

A report from the Office of the Public Auditor also said MVA's assets exceeded liabilities by \$7.7 million in 2014 and \$5.7 million in 2013.

The increase is being attributed to a spike in tourist arrivals on a year-to-year basis.

The OPA report, released

Tuesday, said total tourist arrivals reached 443,963 in 2014, compared to 433,925 in 2013 for a 2-percent increase.

The report also highlighted an increase in marketing expenses from its \$9.2 million budget for 2014.

Total expenditures for 2014 reached \$7.9 million while total expenditures for 2013 reached \$6.3 million. The increase showed a steady upward pattern from the \$5.9 million total expenditure in 2012. Most of the

spending is allocated for marketing and promotions.

Another key highlight of the OPA report is the "zero" bad debt of the MVA in the last two years.

The MVA also got bigger funding from Department of Finance due to an increase in the hotel occupancy tax from 10 to 15 percent.

Overall, the OPA report noted that "MVA continues to manage and administer its funds in a responsible and transparent manner." (Joel D. Pinaroc)

## Guam surfing group to dedicate event in surfer's memory

**HAGATNA, Guam (AP)** — A Guam surfing and bodyboarding organization is planning to dedicate an upcoming annual competition to a local surfer who died after being pulled from Talofofo Bay.

*Pacific Daily News* reports 58-year-old surfer Joseph Acfalle of Yigo died Wednesday

afternoon.

Guahan Napu Inc., a federation of surfers and bodyboarders, is dedicating the eighth annual Rick's Reef Classic competition to Acfalle.

The competition is scheduled for March 14.

Federation president Willi Byerly says he surfed with

Acfalle in the 1970s. He says Acfalle was known as "Cocoa Joe," because of his dark tan.

Byerly says Acfalle broke his leg in the 1980s in an accident at Rick's Reef.

According to Byerly, Acfalle had just started surfing recently after being out of the sport for the last two decades.



Espiransa San Santos, of As Matuis, receives \$1,000 cash prize from the Northern Mariana Amateur Sports Association vice-president Kurt Barns. San Santos did some late shopping at Welcome Market on Thursday and bought five Quick and Cash mixed game tickets. The lucky shopper scratched the winning \$1,000 ticket. There are more \$1,000 cash prizes on offer. Good luck to all the players!

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

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Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan or e-mail it to

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Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



# Tudela has prior 'ice' related arrest in 2000

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Police Officer 1 Carl Kohler Tudela, who was recently arrested on drug charges, has a prior arrest for allegedly selling methamphetamine or "ice" in 2000, but the Office of the Attorney General dropped the case that same year. Eight years later, Tudela

joined the Department of Public Safety.

According to court and police records, Drug Enforcement Administration special agent Deborah Muusers served Tudela with an arrest warrant on April 24, 2000, at the former Meitetsu Supermarket in Chalan Kanoa on charges of delivery of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled

substance.

The arrest was made after a cooperating source of the DEA/CNMI Drug Task Force bought 23 gross grams of "ice" worth \$100 from Tudela at a residence in Illeyan, Saipan.

In her report, Muusers stated that Tudela again contacted the cooperating source in the early part of December 2000, to ask if he/she wants to buy a plate of

"ice" for just \$50.

In May 2000, then-assistant attorney general Marvin J. Williams wrote Tudela's counsel, then-assistant public defender Jeffrey Moots, about Tudela's request for discovery documents.

In that letter, Williams disclosed Tudela's cooperation with DEA investigations. Williams advised Moots that his cli-

ent should keep a record of his meeting with law enforcement and that if Tudela ceases to cooperate the matter can proceed normally and be set for trial.

In October 2000, Moots moved to suppress Tudela's recorded conversations with a confidential informant working with DPS.

Moots asserted that DPS officers engaging in an illegal electronic eavesdropping and surveillance without a warrant amounts to a violation of the CNMI and U.S. constitutions.

The jury trial was supposed to start on Jan. 22, 2001.

At a motions hearing on Dec. 14, 2000, Williams orally moved to dismiss the case.

This prompted then-Superior Court presiding Judge Edward Manibusan to dismiss the case with prejudice, which means it

can't be re-opened again.

DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero disclosed Monday that Tudela joined the police cycle academy in August 2008 and joined DPS in December 2008.

Tudela, 38, who is assigned to the DPS Patrol Section, was arrested last Friday at his residence in San Antonio for allegedly buying "ice" from a cooperating source of a joint team of investigators.

Tudela remains in jail. The Superior Court imposed a \$100,000 cash bail for his temporary release.



**IDEAL DAY**

A tourist couple enjoys a walk along the beach after spending time trying Saipan's various water sports activities. In the background is the famous Managaha Island.

JON PEREZ

## Patient at psychiatric ward beats up nurse

A male patient at the Commonwealth Health Center's psychiatric ward beat up a female nurse on March 1 when she tried to give him water and medicine.

Nathan Dean Villanueva, 42, was arrested for assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

A responding police officer said the nurse had red bruise marks on the right side of her face, her index finger on the left was swollen, and her ring finger on the right hand had a small cut. She complained of pain in the head and face.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio released Villanueva to CHC without requiring him to post a bail.

Kim-Tenorio ordered a mental evaluation for the defendant.

A status conference will be held on April 14.

Police detective Nicholas A. Rabauliman stated in his report that two police officers responded to CHC's psychiatric ward where an assault and battery incident was reported on March 1 at 11:41am.

Rabauliman said they met with the nurse, who stated that Villanueva punched and kicked her several times after she tried to give him water and medicine.

It was another female nurse

who grabbed Villanueva from behind as he continued kicking the victim, who was down on

the floor.

Police arrested Villanueva that day. He was later released

back to CHC, where he was re-arrested on Monday. (Ferdie de la Torre)



## CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE PERSONAL PLAN

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| <b>Medical &amp; Dental Coverage</b> | <b>\$ 104.00</b> | <b>\$ 208.00</b>   | <b>\$ 304.00</b>   |
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# Garapan conservation action plan update in the works

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A conservation action plan for the Garapan watershed is in the works.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality began a two-day workshop yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club to review and revise its "Garapan Conservation Action Plan." The workshop invited agency heads and staff, as well as legislators to discuss strategies moving forward.

Garapan has seen a glut of competing businesses develop in recent years, while infrastructure and runoff pollution issues,

among others, have yet to be resolved.

The CAP is described as "comprehensive natural resource management plan for the Garapan area"—from Mt. Tapochau road to American Memorial Park, to the nearby lagoon, and cultural village.

This year's plan is an update of the 2012 plan. It is updated every three years, and covers threats like natural disturbances, polluted runoff, and invasive and feral species, among others.

The 2015 plan will include an action list. It will reflect interagency responsibilities, project timelines, partnerships, and

resources needed to complete these goals.

In an interview yesterday, BECQ Division of Coastal Resource Management watershed coordinator Kaitlin Mattos said that local agencies look to address issues of impact.

"Back in 2012, there was not much development going on in Garapan. It was kind of a dry period for the CNMI. Since then, we've had a lot of development interests," she said.

"Can we make sure that we are not cutting down too many trees, that businesses are careful about the way they build their infrastructure? And that

they recognize importance of our natural resources in that watershed area, are things to be asked, she said.

"If we can protect Garapan, then we can protect all of Saipan, we can protect the CNMI. But if we ignore Garapan...we are missing a huge opportunity to protect the resources that everybody on island uses," she said.

"We have to try to figure out how the small amount of land that we have over there—that's not already in use—how are we going to allocate that to protect our natural resources and still keep in mind the economic, and social considerations?" she said.

## ANCIENT

From Page 1

were done last year at the request of Best Sunshine and N15 Architects.

According to their report, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, the study area's surface had been extensively disturbed prior to the current project, from previous commercial and scientific study. Jungle had taken over the entire parcel.

Fieldwork on the current study was done from Oct. 27 to Nov. 13, 2014, with Dega as the principal investigator and Perzinski as the project supervisor.

Twenty eight-meter long trenches were excavated across a representative portion of the project area, minus a previously excavated hotel footprint and a small wetland location.

A Latte Period cultural layer was found in 16 of the 20 sites.

Human remains representing five individuals were found in four of the trenches.

Two sling stones, a fishhook tab, and multiple Latte Period earthenware pottery fragment were recovered.

Partially intact burials and two isolated fragments were also found.

On top of the four burial sites, HPO noted 12 remaining burials in the former hotel site in the area.

All cultural materials collected during the research were transported to the University of Guam-MARC for lab analysis. All human burials and isolated

fragments were left "in situ," per HPO requirements.

### Overview

The dig site is located in the center of Garapan and measures 41,000 square meters or 10.1 acres.

The Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan at north and ABC Stores and other businesses to the south bound the site.

In previous studies, materials like pottery were found dated back to the Spanish era missionary period of the 1600s.

The site had been excavated previously for a hotel, but the information from this dig was not available to the current study.

In 2004, Swift and Harper Archaeological Resource Consulting, or SHARC, had found a Latte Period to Spanish Mission period village, dated from AD 1400 to 1600.

The SHARC report was not available to the recent study.

Prior to the study, modern disturbances to the cultural layer leftover from the Spanish missionary period were expected. This period was prior to the Spanish-Chamorro wars and forced relocation of surviving Chamorro to villages on Saipan, Rota, and Guam.

Construction materials from the refurbishing and/or construction of the now-named Fiesta Resort were found, from some 21 years ago.

"Not only were construction materials from this development found during the current project in the northern sector, the backhoe crew...soundly

stated that the neighboring hotel disturbed much of this project area (baseyard) and also buried extraneous construction materials here," the study noted.

### Human remains

When human remains were identified, personnel halted all work immediately and consulted with HPO. They remained untouched, according to the report.

The project documented four distinct stratigraphic layers. "Stratum III" contained a variety of cultural materials.

In backhoe trench 5, a previously disturbed human femur shaft fragment was found.

In backhoe trench 14, two burial sites were found. The first revealed fragmented fibula and metatarsal remains displaced. The second found fragments as well, but when compared to the size of first discovery, it is believed they are separate individuals.

Burial No. 1 is believed to represent a juvenile Chamorro individual, and burial No. 2 represents an adult Chamorro.

In backhoe trench 17, remains of an articulated tibia and fibula and femur were found, and a disturbed metatarsal shaft. The remains appear to be that of sub-adult individual, the report noted.

Other than human remains, the project found Latte to historic period artifacts, like sling stones or fishhook tabs that suggest daily existence.

One trench suggested a possible house site, as did others.

No latte stone elements were found, according to the report.

### Proposed work

BSI's planned construction work "would involved large-scale ground disturbance and excavations that would affect underlying cultural deposits, both intact and previously disturbed."

Three teams of three archaeologists on a full-time basis would man the data recovery.

"At present, there are 18 known burials present in the project area, and likely more, which would, with HPO permission, be removed and secured in a safe storage location near the site," the study noted.

Remains would be wrapped in muslin and placed together in a basket for storage.

No photographs will be taken of the remains, only drawings, it was assured.

The work would be completed in a 68-day window, given weather conditions.

Other cultural deposits would be secured and stored as well.

Disturbed soil will remain on site and be backfilled after the project is done, to allow for a "clean site" for construction to proceed quickly with fewer unexpected setbacks.

Some 220 square meters will be excavated each day, it was proposed.

HPO has since found the plan acceptable, with minor edits, that include onsite storage and security procedures, public education and outreach opportunities, and potential interpretative and internment measures that can be taken after fieldworks is done.

Esther Muña recently said they are looking to hire an individual who is a former finance chief of a hospital. She did not give further details.

The corporation earlier inked a financial management contract with the Pacific Health Officer Association, or PIHOA, to help with the corporation's finances.

Muña said they are also looking for a controller to help with the more detailed operations of the hospital such as account payables, working with financial auditors, and assisting the finance chief.

As of now, Cora Ada is the acting CFO.

## BSI

From Page 1

with this project.

Speaking in Chamorro, a woman testified against the BSI proposal. She urged respect of the burial sites, to "let them rest."

"If you want to dig, start with your mother's burial grounds," she said.

BSI CEO Mark Brown acknowledged her concerns for cultural sites but noted that he has observed squatters defecating in the area.

"People are going to the bathroom [there]. I want to take care" of the area, he said.

He said they don't know what they are going to find but assured they would "honor, recover, and care" for whatever is found.

Richard U. Hofschneider said it is time for locals to stand up, pointing to Hawaii where there are parks honoring their native leaders.

"Mr. Brown, build a museum for us," he said.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), who is a former Lottery Commission chair, spoke as a public citizen in favor of the project.

House Speaker Joseph Leon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) asked Historic Preservation officer Eric Lash about the "over 200 remains and countless artifacts"

## SUIT

From Page 1

"Without that party, this court lacks subject jurisdiction," said the judge in granting Deleon Guerrero's motion to dismiss the complaint.

The couple filed a motion for summary judgment.

Deleon Guerrero, through the Office of the Attorney General, asked the court to dismiss the case because the plaintiffs' injuries cannot be cured by a favorable decision—they lack standing.

Manglona agreed with Deleon Guerrero.

The judge said the court cannot rule on the import ban unless the official in charge of enforcement is named a party in the lawsuit.

Manglona said Deleon Guerrero "enforces the CNMI's laws, customs, practices, and policies," but the plain language of the statute provides that the Customs Service—not DPS or its commissioner—has the "primary responsibility and authority to enforce" the import ban.

In order for the Radich couple to obtain a handgun, they must necessarily import it or cause it to be imported into the Commonwealth, Manglona said.

The judge said the unchallenged section of the statute precludes its importation, and the court has no way of reaching that issue without the presence of the official in charge of Customs.

Manglona also denied the Radich couple's motion for summary judgment as moot.

In their lawsuit, the Radich

discovered in a previous study.

He said the two different sets of data have to be reconciled, to ensure all the data is analyzed together and "not in pieces."

Soon after, Michael A. Fleming, principal investigator of the previous study, spoke up. He said he has been paying rental for the last 15 years for the storage of the human remains he had found. He said they already had done work on 90 percent of the property that is public.

He urged Brown to come to the "negotiation table" to address the 200 remains he had found. He said he would only need "few hundred thousand" to complete his work. He said he was "not asking for a job." He said he kept the remains for the last 15 years, out of faith that "this property is prime."

"This information is not for free," he added.

Brown said in an interview after the hearing that it was "very interesting" but they haven't been able to substantiate Fleming's claims yet.

"We will follow up to see if it is real. And there is no reason why we can't work something out. Like I said, it's the first that I've seen him, hearing him, and what he's done in the past, so I'm...a little curious why he just showed up at the hearing. It's the first time I've heard his name or his work in the past," he said.

couple asked the court to stop Deleon Guerrero from enforcing against them the prohibitions on virtually all CNMI residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes.

The couple asked the court to declare that such prohibitions are null and void because they infringe on the right of the people to keep and bear arms, in violation of the Second and Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Radich, who was born in California, is an honorably discharged U.S. Navy veteran who served in the Gulf War. He used to work at a public school on Tinian before moving to Saipan in 2008 to work for an environmental consulting firm. He and Li-Rong have been married since 2009.

According to the complaint, in 2010, while Radich was away and his wife, Li Rong, was at home alone, their home was invaded.

Li Rong was reportedly attacked and beaten resulting in injuries, including two broken ribs, facial contusions, and a suspected broken orbital bone and eye socket.

Li Rong screamed for help, causing the home invader to leave. She eventually recovered physically, but both plaintiffs incurred medical bills for Li Rong's care.

The couple applied for a weapons permit. To this day, no permit has been granted.

The couple, through counsel, argued that the Second Amendment "guarantee[s] the individual right to possess and carry weapons in case of confrontation."

## OPA

From Page 1

in its inability to pay vendors, employees, and meet other essential operating costs," OPA said.

According to the report, CHCC's operating revenues and expenses amounted to \$29.6 million and \$35.2 million respectively, with an operating loss of \$5.6 million for the year ending Sept. 30, 2013.

The corporation's operating revenues and expenses amounted to \$29.7 million and \$34.1 million respectively, with an operating loss of \$4.4 million for

the year ending Sept. 30, 2012.

The OPA report further said that CHCC's net position decreased significantly due to bad debts of \$14.7 million.

According to [www.investopedia.com](http://www.investopedia.com), a bad debt is a "debt that is not collectible and therefore worthless to the creditor. Bad debt is also usually a product of the debtor going into bankruptcy or where the additional cost of pursuing the debt is more than the amount the creditor could collect."

For both fiscal years 2012 and 2013, CHCC has not recorded accumulated capital assets; however, it incurred machinery and

equipment expense of \$1.3 million, which will eventually be recorded as fixed assets, net of depreciation.

CHCC had total assets of \$19.24 million and \$16.64 million as of Sept. 30, 2013, and 2012, respectively, composed of cash, receivables, due from CNMI, and inventories. CHCC's total liabilities as of Sept. 30, 2013, and 2012 were \$20.9 million and \$16.4 million respectively.

CHCC, meanwhile, has vowed to address its financial woes and other concerns, and one concrete step for it to take is hire a chief financial officer.

CHCC chief executive officer



# Propst eyes heavier penalties for resale of troop store beer

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Propst

For Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), one way to curb the practice of reselling beer and other alcoholic beverages bought from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service troop store is to impose heavy penalties on erring stores.

Propst said there are confirmed reports of stores that are buying beer from the troop store in Puerto Rico at a cheaper price, then selling the same items to the public without paying the proper taxes.

The lawmaker explained that the military store extends a privilege to enlisted personnel and their immediate relatives that allows them to buy liquor and other items at a discounted price. The items are often sold in large containers and are meant only for personal consumption.

However, some unscrupulous individuals have taken advantage of this and have been buying items—particularly beer—in bulk that are then sold to stores. The stores then resell the

beer to customers who unwittingly buy the items.

“One of the ways that I am looking at this as far as legislation is concerned is to impose an immediate and heavy penalty to these stores,” said Propst in an interview.

He added that a typical 30-pack beer could be bought from the troop store at \$21.50. The same pack would then be sold to retail outlets, with \$5 being added to the actual price.

Propst said the retail outlet can then make a nice profit from selling the beer and “cheating the system.”

The lawmaker added that severe fines can be a deterrent to this illegal practice, but there should also be strict enforcement from the police.

Propst said he has initiated talks with businesses on Saipan and military representatives as well to address the concern. “It is unfortunate that the military is well aware of the situation,” Propst said.

## Library board has yet to decide on Gonzales’ fate

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Joeten Kiyu Public Library board members have yet to decide on the fate of its executive director, John Oliver Gonzales, despite earlier announcing that action will be taken at the end of last week or starting this week.

Community members, through online comments and social media, have already spoken out. Some of them said that Gonzales should not remain in his position as the head of JKPL, while others said the board should reinstate Gonzales elsewhere.

JKPL employees have also expressed their opinions, with the majority not wanting Gonzales to return. One staff who wants to remain anonymous said she resigned by emailing Gonzales her resignation letter. The former staff claimed that she was on maternity leave prior to her resignation and that Gonzales pressed her to either return to work immediately or resign.

So far the library continues to operate normally under a compromise reached between the JKPL board and employees on Feb. 23. The JKPL staff walked out on Gonzales on Feb. 18, complaining of a “climate of fear” that Gonzales allegedly maintains at the library.

Tomorrow, March 11, marks the third week for any decision yet to be made on what to do with the stalemate.

In a phone interview, JKPL board chair Mark Rabauliman said a decision on Gonzales has yet to be made and that there

are matters that need to be discussed first.

Saipan Tribune tried to contact Gonzales but he has yet to respond to queries as of press time.

# MARCH MANIA

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## ISLA Teppanyaki Dinner Buffet

Savor a variety of appetizers, salads, desserts featuring a plate of teppanyaki steak and seafood including draft beer, wines, sodas and juices

**\$50 per adult, \$25 per child**  
6 PM to 9 PM everyday

For dinner reservations, please call 237-5126.  
For private events, please send inquiry to [FrancesKai.Mafnas@picsaipan.com](mailto:FrancesKai.Mafnas@picsaipan.com)

The a la carte teppanyaki menu is also available daily from 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM.

**PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB**  
SAIPAN





### CNMI VOICE FESTIVAL

Uncle Ben's Studio, in cooperation with Bridge Capital, *Marianas Variety*, *Beach Road Magazine*, and Island Flowers and Novelties, will be presenting the 2015 CNMI Voice Festival Season 1 Grand Finals this Friday, March 13, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, starting at 6pm. The event's minor sponsors include Pacific Islands Club, Saipan World Resort, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Coca Cola, TransAmerica, Gold's Gym, National Office Supply, Micronesia Dress Shop, Blossom Floral, Barney's Pizza, J's Restaurant, Best Seller, Westco Co., Three M's Beauty Care, Natasha, Blue Hawaii Spa, System 4 U, Western Company, Saint Trading Co., MGA Business, RNV Construction, Mobil (Chalan Kiya), Lyn's B.B.Q (Garapan), IT&E, *Saipan Tribune*, Marpac, DPA, Keynotes School of Music, GPRR., AGA Ent., Bammy's Restaurant, Cartwill Enterprises, Graphics Inc., 360 Restaurant, Topnotch, Mr. & Mrs. Lito Asuncion, Eli Arago, Ofie Pangilinan, Janice Tenorio, Jocelyn Seter, Imelda Biascan, Precy Campo, Cristina Lustre, Jane Tudela, Lisa Taylor of Toyota, Mario Mayuga, Sol San Nicolas, June Baquilles, Olive Annon, Joyce Rangamar, Lion Atoy of Saipan World Resort, and Sunday group of cockfighters.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

## Guam Commands recognized for community service

**ASAN, Guam**—Two Navy commands in Guam were among 12 commands fleetwide who were commended for giving back to the community in 2014.

Navy Munitions Command East Asia Division (NMCEAD) Unit Guam won the small overseas division while USS *Frank Cable* received honorable mention in the large sea category for the 2014 Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship Award.

The award recognizes commands that excel in the project's goal of improving scholastic achievements, social and life skills, and providing vocational guidance.

NMCEAD Unit Guam sailors volunteered 1,090 hours through various projects to include a community garden

project, after-school math tutoring sessions, career days and school cleanups. The command's efforts served an estimated 9,299 residents in two villages and 684 youth ages 5-11.

"We could not be happier or more appreciative to have received the award," said Mineman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Anthony Souza, command volunteer coordinator. "We work cohesively with our sister village, sister school and local organizations to ensure we are able to provide the best support for any of our community relations projects."

Souza added that teamwork between command Sailors is part of what makes a successful COMREL.

"Since our command is quite small we are able to motivate and encour-

age each other to give back to the community because in the end, it not only benefits the community but us as individuals," he said.

*Frank Cable* sailors and civilians accumulated 659 volunteer hours offering their services to Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Guam, National Park Service, and orphanages, hospitals and schools in Malaysia and Thailand.

The Navy Community Service Program aims to promote a joint Navy and community effort to assist in the education and enrichment of America's youth and communities through five flagship programs: Personal Excellence Partnership, Health Safety and Physical Fitness, Environmental Stewardship, Campaign Drug Free and Project Good Neighbor. (PR)

## Seven winners so far in NMASA scratch card lottery

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

So far, seven individuals have already become \$1,000 richer, thanks to the Northern Marianas Sports Association's scratch card lottery fundraiser that is available in 33 stores on Saipan and Rota.

Majority of winners have been advertised in local news media, while some want to remain anonymous, according to Pacific Lotteries Ltd. of Australia representative Steve Gibson. Five winners are from Saipan while Rota has two winners.

He said all stores that were given the scratch card lottery have sold them out. Gibson said a new shipment of tickets from Australia would be arriving in two to three weeks' time.

Over 100,000 scratch cards—Hafa Adai, Lucky 7's, Quick Cash, and Tropical Treasure—were initially distributed, according to Gibson.

"It is going really well and it is popular and everyone is getting into it. You have a 1 in 4.9 percent chance of winning if you buy five tickets. The stores sell these and the customers just has to identify three matching numbers and the storeowner will give them their prize," Gibson said.

"Not only that, if you purchase the ticket and you leave the store where you purchased it at, if you haven't any time to go back to the store, other selling agents will accept your scratch card," he added.

The 33 selling agents on Saipan and Rota include Welcome Market, I-Mart, Zhen Yu, New Kagman Market, four Mobil gas stations (Kagman, San Jose, Chalan Kiya, and Susupe), Min Yang,

Lucky De, Jin Li, LN Market, Twin's Supermarket (Navy Hill and Dandan), Saipan Fresh Market, Shun Fu, New Garapan Market, New Chang Ming, Sunleader, Rising, New XO Market, Green Consume I and II, JJ Market, Hannam Market, Bluesky, Kevin's, LZ Market, Happy Market, Friendly, San Antonio Market, and Dolphin Wholesale.

NMSA instant scratch card program manager Dorris Pangelinan said many other stores have requested for the scratch cards as well.

» All stores sold out of lottery cards, shipment in 2 to 3 weeks tops

Gibson noted that they are looking at different games to be implemented in the scratch cards. Such games include a \$3 scratch card lottery that will have multiple prizes of \$5,000 and \$5 scratch cards that will have multiple prizes of \$10,000.

"The games will be kept fresh and we're going to bring in new games every three months so we'll work on the next tickets and game design," he said.

"This not only cuts down spending on poker machines, because you have 53 percent more chances of winning than when you are playing on poker machines and it is also for a good cause to promote activities and healthier and active community, which NMSA targets," he added.

NMSA president Michael White would also like to thank the Chinese community for becoming contributors to this fundraiser and allowing NMSA to use their stores as outlets for the scratch card lottery.

Since NMSA became an independent and private group for all sport entities in 2013, they were allowed to operate a public lottery system as per Public Law 18-49.

## Owner of 2 stores to pay \$70K in back wages to 24 workers

The U.S. Wage and Hour Division's Saipan Field Office has ordered the owner of a store on Saipan and another on Tinian to pay \$70,197 in back wages to their 24 workers for minimum wage and hour violations.

According to Wage and Hour Division yesterday, their investigators also cited the employer, Long Feng Corp., for record-keeping violations for not accurately recording all hours worked by employees.

Long Feng Corp. operates New XO Market on Saipan and Tian Hong Market on Tinian. The stores offer groceries, laundry services, and poker machine amusement games.

Long Feng Corp. has agreed to pay all back wages found due and promised to initiate full compliance with federal labor law.

Wage and Hour Division district director in Hawaii Terence Trotter said that when a business is subject to the wage provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, an employer cannot lawfully enter into separate wage agreements with their workers that undermine their basic rights under the law.

In this case, Wage and Hour inves-

tigators found that Long Feng Corp. failed to meet its obligations under the federal FLSA to pay minimum wage and overtime.

Investigators found that the employer had the employees enter into agreements giving up their entitlement to overtime premium wages for hours worked beyond 40 in a workweek.

The FLSA requires most employees, with limited exceptions, be paid at least the federal minimum wage, which is currently set at \$6.05 per hour in the CNMI, for all hours worked, plus time and one half their regular rates of pay for hours worked beyond 40 per week.

An employee's regular rate, according to Wage and Hour Division, is determined by providing weekly compensation, including hourly rates, commissions, and incentive pay by the total hours worked in a workweek.

Employers are also required to provide a notice to employees of the FLSA minimum requirements by posting the FLSA poster, maintain accurate time and payroll records, and adhere to work hour limitations and specific occupation restrictions deemed hazardous for workers under the age of 18. (*Saipan Tribune*)



# More than 84K Medicaid applicants OK'd in 5 yrs.

In the span of five fiscal years—from 2010 to 2015—a total of 85,549 clients have been approved under the CNMI Medicaid Office, according to program administrator Helen Sablan.

The most number of Medicaid patients was in 2011 when a total of 17,233 were approved, while

2010 and 2013 had more than 15,000 approved applicants.

Of the approved applicants from 2010 to 2015, 8,446 were new applicants, 29,051 were reapplications, and 47,052 were renewals.

The Medicaid program client base increased due to an

## »Outstanding claims to providers now down to \$900K

increase in health insurance costs and those who were previously enrolled couldn't afford the increases.

Last fiscal year alone, the

Medicaid office had a client base of 15,165, and only seven months into fiscal year 2015, about 5,144 are already approved.

The client base is expected to increase this fiscal year 2015.

Northern Marianas descent recipients numbered the most with a total of 39,472, while Asians ranked second with a total of 26,487 clients.

From fiscal years 2010 to 2015, only 1,811 were de-

nied due to excess income, resources, and vehicles; had no Social Security Income, no resident property, non-U.S. and non-local.

Last year a total of 286 were denied, while 69 were denied in fiscal year 2015. *(Jayson Camacho)*

# CNMI JROTC tackles newly implemented JROTC Program Accreditation assessment

The focus of Army JROTC is reflected in its mission: "To motivate young people to be better citizens." The Program of Instruction focuses on the development of better citizens by building skills in leadership, citizenship, life success, geography, and wellness, in a structured interactive environment. The Program of Instruction is designed to teach high school students the value of citizenship, leadership, service to the community, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment, while instilling in them self-esteem, teamwork, and self-discipline.

The JROTC Program of Accreditation: The Formal Inspection Protocol, formerly known as the Cadet Formal Inspection, has been on hold for the past several years as the Army Cadet Command revised its federal regulations to develop a system more in line with the accreditation process used by school systems throughout the country.

The new program is titled the JROTC Program of Accreditation, or JPA. The CNMI Public School System's JROTC Program was selected by Cadet Command to serve as a "pilot" in the newly implemented national protocol. This "pilot" assessment will implement the National JPA Program and will assist the evaluators in their assessments of how it has been formulated and corrections needed to facilitate the inspection process. Cadet Command designated 10 percent of their



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SSHS Briefs the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade JROTC Evaluators on Planning, Execution, and Reflections of their Service Learning Projects.

1,700 programs worldwide to take part in this new process.

8<sup>th</sup> Brigade officials are also assessing Guam, South Korea, and Japan schools on this visit. Other officials are looking at schools in the Western United States.

The JPA school visit is designed to assess the unit primarily in the areas of teaching and learning. This visit is composed of accreditation criteria that include cadet participation and knowledge, assessment of both the cadet and instructor portfolios as well as drill and ceremony execution.

Accreditation activities include: Staff Battalion Continuous Improvement Briefing (Action Plan); Service Learning Briefing; Cadet Portfolio and Interview; Unit Report; Drill; In-Ranks; Color Guard; S-1 Interview; S-2 Interview; S-3 Interview; S-4 Interview; S-5 Interview; Cadre

Portfolio and Interview; and Instructor Portfolio and Interview.

Due to the outstanding performance of all of the five CNMI PSS JROTC programs, the CNMI PSS JROTC will not be assessed again for three years.

Lt. Col. Bob Gay, director of Army Instruction, said the DAI Office and all five of the CNMI's high school programs have been preparing for the JPA Accreditation Process for the past five months. The level of work and coordination involved in this process was prodigious. Cadre Professional Development sessions, Functional assistance visits by Cadre to other than their own schools and the DAI office solidified the unity, professionalism, and selfless service of the entire program. He said that he was most proud of the teamwork shown by the JROTC instruc-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SSHS JROTC Staff Briefs the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade Evaluators on the Manta Ray Battalion Continuous Improvement.

tors as they worked together sharing best practices across the board. Gay also credited Guam

JROTC Cadre for sharing their experiences.

Rota High School JROTC was

the first program inspected and they were off to a great start. They excelled in all areas. The average score for all five of our JROTC programs was 94.75 percent.

"Two of our high school programs received the highest scores in the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade," Gay said.

He said the JPA is a more difficult process than the former Cadet Formal Inspection.

"Each school earned what they got. There were no easy tasks," he added.

After Action Reviews and Reflection sessions will now be conducted at each JROTC program and the DAI office to capture the results of the inspection and implement areas requiring improvements. *(PR)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## LENTEN REFLECTION

Fr. Ike Ayuyu, Pastor of Santa Soledad, join with the parishes of San Vicente (Fr. Jason) and San Roque (Fr. Tinong) to celebrate the "Come Back to Life: Make Your Heart Firm" message from Pope Francis for Lent 2015 and the Healing of Families with the Healing Cross and Anointing of the Head.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB NO.: ITB15-DCCA/NAP-056**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 30, 2015      TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"COMPUTER MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS - DIVISION OF N.A.P."**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO  
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB NO.: ITB15-DCCA/NAP-057 (A-C)**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 30, 2015      TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"TO PURCHASE SIX (6) REFRIGERATORS, SIX (6) RECTANGULAR PLASTIC  
FOLDING TABLES AND THIRTY-SIX (36) FOLDING CHAIRS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS - DIVISION OF N.A.P."**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO  
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff:

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,      CIVIL ACTION No. 11-0131

-v-      Plaintiff,

LUCIA BORJA PALACIOS,      Defendant.

**THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 218-2-5, situated in As Teo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 53,203.65 meters north and 66,755.91 meters east of the Mariana Islands district coordinate system of 1956.

Thence N 13° 35' 00" E, 13.18 meters to Corner 3;  
Thence S 80° 13' 00" E, 65.95 meters to Corner 4;  
Thence S 09° 47' 00" E, 28.85 meters to Corner 5;  
Thence N 80° 13' 00" W, 66.53 meters to Corner 1; the point of beginning.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 18th day of February, 2015:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff:

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,      CIVIL ACTION No. 09-0458

-v-      Plaintiff,

DONALD C. CAMACHO      Defendant.

**FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of defendant in and to the following property: Lot 0011 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth recorder's Office, Saipan.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 18th day of February, 2015:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff:

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,      CIVIL ACTION No. 09-0338

-v-      Plaintiff,

RAMON P. AGULTO      Defendant.

and DALIA R. AGULTO,

**EIGHTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 001 G 32 situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 18th day of February, 2015:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Kenneth C. & Jocelyn Belen S.N. Kaneshi  
P.O. Box 5573 CHRB  
Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No.: (670) 483-3237

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In The Matter of the ) FCD-AD  
Adoption of: ) CIVIL ACTION  
Cristian Anthony ) NO. 15-0105  
San Nicolas Villagomez )  
Minor Child )  
By: ) **NOTICE OF  
HEARING**  
)  
)  
Kenneth & Jocelyn )  
Belen Kaneshi )  
Petitioner(s) )  
)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 27, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2015.

Clerk of Court  
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court



# Public invited to NMC's Charter Day celebration

To celebrate more than 34 years of enriching lives through higher education, the Northern Marianas College is inviting the CNMI community to its Charter Day celebration, on March 20, 2015.

"We're inviting everyone to join us in As Terlaje for our annual gathering," said Queanna Sablan, Program Manager, Office of Student Activities and Leadership. "We'll be showcas-

ing various programs, hosting fun competitions, and of course, featuring great entertainment."

The festivities will kick off at 4pm and will continue until 10pm.

In addition to various entertainment and competitions throughout the night, delicious food, drinks and games will also be offered for sale by numerous vendors.

Agencies, businesses, clubs and other civic organizations are



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Performers entertain the crowd during NMC's Charter Day last year. This year's Charter Day will be on Friday, March 20, 2015, and will feature competitions and a number of other performances.

## Humanities Council to sponsor summer research workshop

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will sponsor a one-week (40-hour) history research workshop from June 29 to July 3 at the Northern Marianas College.



Clement Jr.

the conclusion of the workshop and authors will be invited to present their papers at the upcoming 3rd Marianas History Conference in September.

The workshop will be limited to 15 participants and selection

This workshop, facilitated by University of Guam professor Dr. Michael Clement Jr., will provide participants with the basic tools to conduct historical research in the Mariana Islands.

Participants will learn how to identify historically significant topics, develop scholarly research proposals, navigate local archives, and conduct oral history.

The workshop will also familiarize participants with the technical aspects of writing a scholarly research paper.

In addition to methodology, the course will introduce participants to the ethical concerns and cultural/historical implications of conducting research in small island communities.

Each participant will produce a short research paper by

will be competitive. It is open to the general public. Priority will be given to classroom history and Social Studies teachers and instructors.

Application forms may be downloaded from council's website, [www.northernmariashumanities.org](http://www.northernmariashumanities.org), or picked up at the council office in the Springs Plaza building in Gualo Rai.

Applications must be received by the council on or before June 1, 2015.

Clement is an assistant professor of history at UOG. He holds a master's degree in Micronesian Studies from UOG and a Ph.D. in Pacific History from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Contact council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this upcoming event. (NMI Humanities Council)

invited to participate by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food/drink, game booths, retail (arts and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces is March 13, 2015. The booth fee is \$150 for business and individuals. For NMC clubs and

nonprofit organizations, the fee is \$75. For more information or to download a booth application, please visit [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu).

For additional information, contact Queanna Sablan at 234-5498 ext. 6790 or via email at [queanna.sablan@marianas.edu](mailto:queanna.sablan@marianas.edu).



### MHS NHS JOINS BEAUTIFY MY MARIANAS

Twenty-five members of the Marianas High National Honor Society join the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program on Feb. 21, 2015, collecting eight bags of trash from Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa to Pakpak Beach in San Antonio. The Beautify My Marianas program offers \$100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas. For more information or an application, visit the MVA homepage at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 11, 2012

### Fitlal: NMI illegals now over 9,000

Gov. Benigno R. Fitlal said the number of illegal foreigners and so-called overstayers in the CNMI has grown from some 3,000 to over 9,000, adding that he has reiterated his request with the federal government to give him the authority to deport these people. "I told them that if you cannot deport overstayers, give me the authority to do so because I am very good in deporting overstayers," he said in an interview on Saturday. The governor, who returned last week from a three-week trip to Washington, D.C. and California, said the over 9,000 illegal aliens and overstayers include those involved in the underground economy, are illegally employed, or jobless and therefore not paying taxes and not contributing to the economy.

### Fund threatens to terminate insurance of CHC employees

NMI Retirement Fund administrator Richard Villagomez has issued a 15-day notice of termination in the health and life insurance coverage of employees at the Commonwealth Health Center, who are seven pay periods behind in their payment. The Group Health and Life Insurance Program is an ancillary service being handled by the Fund administrator for the government. Aetna Global is the

carrier for the health insurance, while Individual Assurance Co. handles the life insurance coverage of GHLIP members.

March 11, 2009

### CNMI Descent: Federalization law violates Covenant

The CNMI Descent for Self-Government and Indigenous Rights says the federalization law's direct and immediate injury to the CNMI is not economic hardship but loss of constitutional right. CNMI Descent supports the lawsuit filed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitlal against the federal government. In a 37-page amicus curiae to the lawsuit filed by the CNMI government against the U.S. government, CNMI Descent said the U.S. government misapprehends the true nature of the injury that Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 inflicts on the CNMI.

### 1,802 hotel employees affected; \$1.7M hike in wage costs seen

Hotels may be forced to lay off employees, cut benefits, or reduce work hours as a result of the additional 50-cent increase in minimum wage scheduled in May, and which will cost the industry almost \$1.7 million in added payroll costs annually. Some 68 percent or 1,802 of the total 2,636 employees of hotels that are members of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will be affected by the minimum wage hike. This means seven of every 10 employees in the hotel industry will get an increase in their hourly wages, forcing hotels to find ways to cushion the impact at a time when the CNMI economy is at its worst with the collapse of the garment industry and low tourist arrivals, coupled with uncertainties brought by federalization

and the global economic crunch.

March 11, 2005

### 'Red Toyota Tacoma seen at area where body was found'

A red, heavily tinted Toyota Tacoma was seen at the area where the body of a Chinese female was found last Thursday morning, according to witnesses interviewed by the police soon after the discovery of the body. Four local youths told police during investigation that they were walking along the beach when they came upon the body. They then ran to the Department of Fish and Wildlife Office, said Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David. As they were running away from the body, the four young locals noticed a red pickup truck at the site—a heavily tinted Toyota Tacoma.

### House taps \$4.5M labor fees for PSS teacher program

The House of Representatives has passed a bill appropriating \$4.5 million from new labor fees to match a federal grant for the Public School System teachers' enhancement program. The House approved House Bill 14-278, authored by Rep. Arnold I. Palacios which aims to help the PSS receive a \$12-million annual Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants Program. The grant, which would entitle PSS to a \$4-million grant every year for three years—from Oct. 1, 2005 to Sept. 3, 2008—requires a 50-percent matching funds. The PSS, in a letter to the Legislature, said it would be eligible to receive a \$200,000 waiver in matching funds for each year, and that PSS is also prepared to provide \$300,000 per year from its own budget.



# House HEW committee visits Precision Medical Imaging



The House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare visited and toured the facility at Precision Medical Imaging

on Middle Road, Garapan last Friday. Committee chair Rep. Felicidad T. Ogumoro, vice chair Rep. Francis S. Taimanao,

Reps. Angel A. Demapan, Edwin K. Propst, and Glenn L. Maratita received an overview briefing and site tour by PMI

executive Dino Manning.

Every year, the Commonwealth government overruns its expenditure on its Medical Referral Services program due to the lack of specialized medical expertise, equipment and facilities. A significant portion of patient referrals to off-island facilities are for purposes of computerized tomography scan and magnetic resonance imaging services.

The HEW committee was very impressed with PMI's high-grade equipment, professional staff, and most importantly, its established network with off-island radiology partners who provide a quick and

accurate turnaround of scan results. In fact, the committee was pleased to learn that in urgent cases, PMI has the ability to get back scan results in at least two hours.

PMI's 128-slice CT scanner, the only one on the island, is a non-invasive diagnostic machine that can detect tumors, cancers or coronary heart disease by producing sharp, three-dimensional, cross-sectional images of the body. The facility is also equipped to produce 4D sonograms and digital mammograms. During the visit, PMI informed the Committee that they are close to bringing in

an MRI machine.

The committee would like PMI to meet with the Medical Referral Services office to discuss available options that may help alleviate the costs borne by the government for patient referrals sent to Guam solely for CT and MRI scans.

"The HEW Committee is grateful for the opportunity to see first-hand the facility and services offered by PMI," said Ogumoro. "Our people deserve on-island access to quality and cost-effective healthcare services like radiology so we can reduce or eliminate costs associated with referring patients to off-island facilities." (PR)

## NMC, Framingham collaborate to offer master's degree in Special Education

Registration for the master's degree program with emphasis in special education, which is being offered through a collaboration between Framingham State University and Northern Marianas College, is currently ongoing. Those interested in earning their master's degree and advancing their careers in special education are encouraged to enroll in the program.

The classes for the program are scheduled in a way that recognizes that many of the students hold full time jobs and are balancing many obligations. As such, the courses are provided in a condensed but convenient format supported by prior readings, and culminate in a final project.

The instructional content of the classes are delivered through both online formats

as well as in-class sessions, which are led by Framingham professors who travel to the CNMI to meet personally with the cohort participants.

Those who already hold a master's degree from U.S.-accredited institutions are not required to take the Graduate Review Exam to apply for the program. Individuals who have an undergraduate degree (but not a graduate degree) are, however, required to take Graduate Review Exam as part of the admission application process. The GRE can be scheduled at the Northern Marianas Testing Center by calling Isabel Matsunaga at 236-6774/6790.

Northern Marianas College offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science degree in Education (emphasis

on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services) as well as a Bachelors in Business Management. Other degrees offered include associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. NMC also offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

Individuals interested in joining the next cohort may contact the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute at 234-5498 Ext. 6808/6802 or email floyd.masga@marianas.edu. (NMC)

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 4th birthday to our sweet and loving warrior-princess, Tiana Therese Norita, who is celebrating her special day today! May the Lord continue to protect you and may all your wishes come true! With love from Daddy, Mommy, and Hayden.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### MHS PTA meeting today

Attention parents, guardians of Marianas High School students: Our PTA meeting is today, Wednesday, March 11, starting at 6pm. Venue is at the Counseling Office. (MHS)

### Deadline to order graduation accessories

This is to inform all parents of seniors (12<sup>th</sup> grade) at Marianas High School that the last day to place an order for graduation accessories and partial payment is March 23, 2015. Please be advised that orders will not be accepted after the deadline. Graduation accessories are purchased off island. Please call 237-3206/3205 for more information. (MHS)

### CCA board meeting on March 17

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org or ccamarianas@gmail.com.

The Survivor's and Caregiver's Support Group Meeting will be held on March 19, 2015, at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. (PR)

## CRIME OF THE WEEK

### Pena House burglarized

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a burglary and theft incident that occurred at Pena House, a clothing department store located on Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa.

On March 2, 2015, at about 5:50am, police responded to the burglary and theft incident at Pena House. It was learned through witnesses and surveillance cameras that the suspect was caught on tape committing the crime. The suspect is described as a local male, light complexioned, about 5'4 to 5'6" tall, approximately in his late 20s to mid-30s, wearing a light-colored baseball cap backwards on his head, with a mustache, possible short goatee (beard on chin), light-colored shorts, skinny at about 130-140 lbs, with short hair, and with a dark colored backpack strapped to his back.

The suspect stole a black first generation iPad valued at over \$350 to \$400 and over \$60 in cash. The back door locks were damaged and so was the cash register. The alarm system went



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Surveillance video footage shows an image of the burglar that broke into the Pena House on March 2. The public is encouraged to call Crime Stoppers if they can identify the individual.

off at about 5:45am. The alarm system company was contacted and so were the police. The suspect was in and out of the store within five minutes.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain

anonymous or use our website at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net). Caller ID is not used. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. Download the "tip submit app" for free from the apple store or Google play store. It pays to call. (Crime Stoppers)



# Opinion

Hafa Adail

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## The Petraeus deal: Sharing top-secret documents calls for prison time

**R**etired U.S. Army general and former CIA chief David H. Petraeus appears on his way to receiving light punishment for taking home and handing to his mistress, who was writing his biography, highly classified intelligence documents.

The law prohibits Mr. Petraeus from carrying such documents around or passing them to someone such as Paula Broadwell, who was not cleared to see them. Beyond obeying the law lies the importance of the information contained in the documents and the lives that might be endangered if they came to light.

Mr. Petraeus' action also sets a poor example for others when they see the CIA director and former senior military commander disregard the law on handling classified material, particularly as part of an extramarital affair.

All this raises the question of what penalty Mr. Petraeus should receive. In reaching an agreement with the federal government to plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge of mishandling classified materials even after he lied about it to the FBI, Mr. Petraeus is not likely to see prison time. Prosecutors want him to serve two years' probation and to pay a \$40,000 fine.

Part of the argument for going easy on Mr. Petraeus is that his reputation has already been damaged by what he did and by his consequential departure from the CIA in 2012. His post-CIA income, from speaking fees and lucrative employment at New York investment firm KKR, suggests otherwise.

A prison term is in order, to make clear the gravity of his offenses and to serve as an example to others who might consider playing fast and loose with the nation's most closely held secrets.

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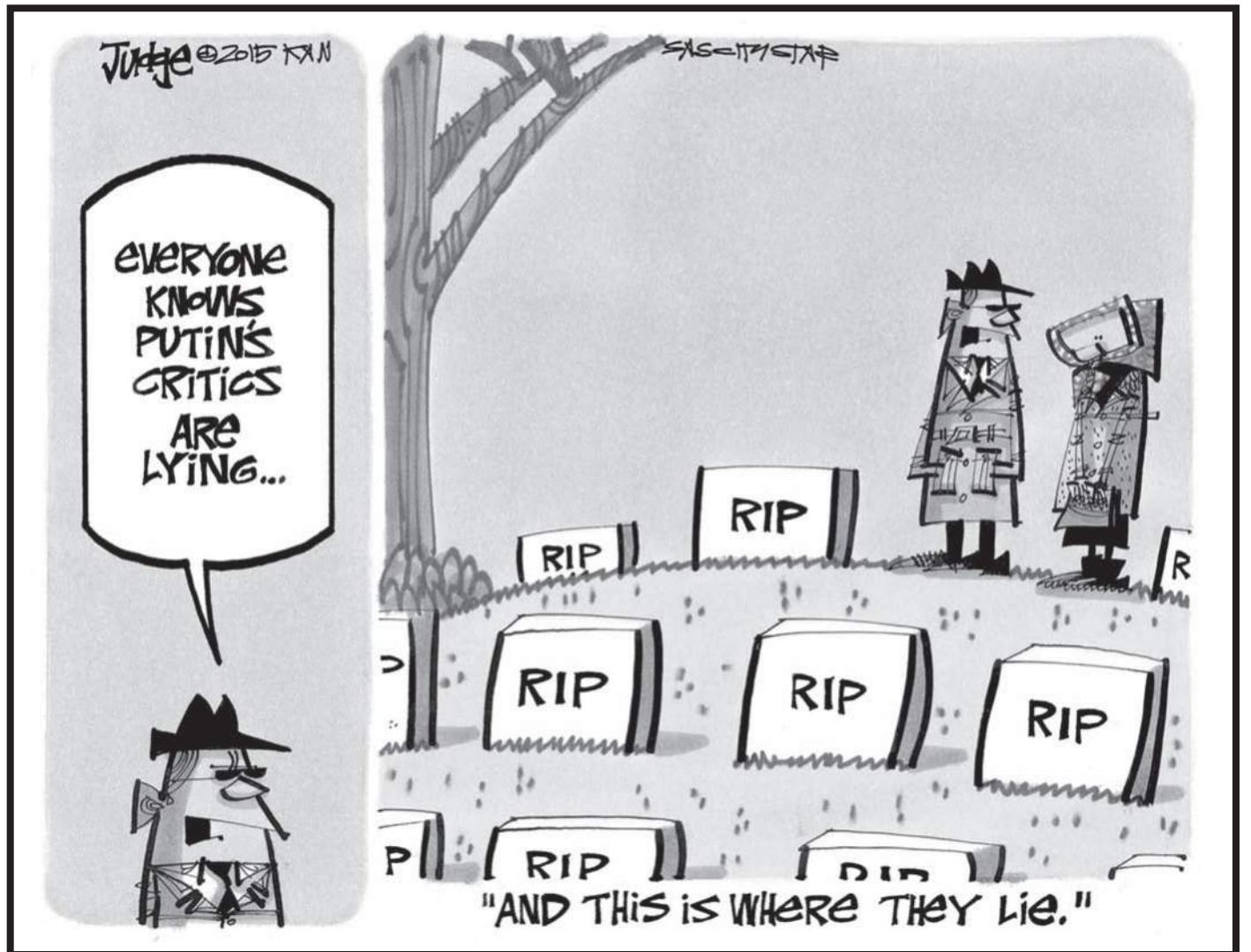
## Show us the emails, Hillary

She should have known better.

Transparency is not an option for a public official, nor a mere inconvenience to be ignored. It's standard operating procedure for public officials, and it strains credibility for Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to claim she was unaware.

Ms. Clinton has gotten herself caught up in a totally unneces-

See HILLARY on Next Page



## Will Clinton let email issue mushroom into a problem?

**I**t's impossible to know whether Hillary Rodham Clinton's use of a private email account to conduct business as secretary of State is a serious scandal or merely a tempest in a teapot. Impossible, because Clinton and her aides have ducked the most important questions.

Yes, secretaries of State are allowed to use personal email accounts. But why did Clinton choose never to use the government's official system? She hasn't said.

Yes, Clinton gave the government more than 55,000 pages of emails after she was asked for them and said they included every message that touched on official business. But will the government be allowed to review the rest of the messages to make sure she didn't hold anything back? No answer.

No, there's no evidence that Clinton's emails included sensitive information, or that her private email server was penetrated by foreign intelligence services. But how would we know? There's no evidence either way.

And yes, Clinton says she has asked the State Department to release the emails—someday. In her only public statement on the matter, she tweeted: "I want the public to see my email. I asked State to release them. They said they will review them for release as soon as possible."

Good luck with that. The State Department is notorious for Dickensian delays in releasing documents. Five years ago, the Associated Press asked for records about Clinton's closest aide, Huma Abedin; it's still waiting. At that speed, Hillary Clinton could be in her second term as president before we see any smoking emails.

That's the problem. If Clinton plans to run for the White House, voters deserve to have those questions answered well before election day.

Instead, Clinton has reverted to a practice she and her husband have long preferred when they were caught in unpleasant situations: She has put her head down, ignored the critics and prayed for the media's annoying spotlight to move restlessly on.

Sometimes that strategy works—but sometimes it doesn't, disastrously.

Early in the Bill Clinton administration, there was something called the Whitewater affair, a murky soup of real estate deals and bank loans in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. White House aide David Gergen was convinced that the Clintons had done nothing wrong and urged a strategy of full disclosure, to prevent a small scandal from turning into a larger one.

But the Clintons, especially Hillary, rejected his advice. As a result, Whitewater mushroomed, leading to congressional hearings and the appointment of a special prosecutor. In the end, the Whitewater transactions turned out to be no big deal. But by then, the special prosecutor had stumbled across a different object of interest: Monica Lewinsky.

Full disclosure in 1994 might have saved President Clinton a painful impeachment drama in 1998 and 1999. But it's not clear

By DOYLE MCMANUS  
Los Angeles Times

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that Hillary Clinton absorbed that lesson.

Instead, her modified limited hangout on the emails has revived a negative stereotype: She's politically clumsy at best, a chronic bender of rules at worst.

David Axelrod, President Obama's former campaign manager, warned on MSNBC that she was allowing the story to "fester." Dick Harpootlian, former chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party, told Bloomberg Politics: "I think she is uniquely unqualified to run a campaign."

And those two are Democrats (although neither has ever been an enthusiastic Hillary Clinton fan). As for Clinton's enemies—the "vast right-wing conspiracy" she denounced back in 1997—the kerfuffle has been like Christmas in March.

It was a shot of adrenaline to House Republicans' wheezing investigation of the 2012 attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya. Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), who is leading the House probe, said he might even call the former secretary to testify on the matter.

Other Republicans said they might investigate whether Clinton had put sensitive information at risk—a question that could qualify as legitimate congressional oversight.

This, Madam Secretary, is precisely how a small problem risks mushrooming into a big problem. Most of it could have been avoided if Clinton had complied with the rules and turned over her emails a year ago.

Maybe Clinton can answer the questions, and it will turn out that there's nothing to see here. The current law against personal email accounts wasn't in effect during her tenure at the State Department. (Still, she appears to have violated State Department policy.)

If Clinton had heavyweight competition for the nomination, she might be in serious trouble with Democratic voters. But she doesn't face that kind of competition, and time is on her side.

"When we get to November 2016, I'll bet no one will be thinking about Secretary Clinton's emails," Democratic strategist Mark Mellman predicted.

Nonetheless, she's reminded even her friends of her old propensity for unforced errors—and that if they vote for someone named Clinton, they risk getting some baggage in the bargain.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## The love of country

Someone recently asked if President Barack Obama loves his country. The query elicited varied reactions from pundits to national media commentators. I have no personal animus against the President nor do I have problems answering love of country. I remain a strong believer in the “stars and stripes forever.”

Nonetheless, I’ve also keenly treaded national debates on presidential and congressional authority on the concept of separation of powers. The Republican-controlled Congress is divided on some issues and a Johnny-come-lately on others. The vacuum is what Mr. O uses to impose his rogue views on such issues as healthcare and immigration, among others, using his pen and cellular phone.

Monica Crowley, national columnist and conservative political radio commentator asked:

“Does Barack Obama love America?”

“At this point, who really cares?”

“Half of America isn’t paying much attention to him, and the other half is thinking about who might succeed him in 2016.”

“And yet, thanks to a recent comment by former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, the question shows it still has political legs.”

“The problem is that it misses the real point.”

“The issue raised by Mr. Giuliani’s comment is not whether or to what extent Mr. Obama loves his country. It is also not about Mr. Obama’s patriotism or lack thereof.”

“The real point is as true as it is frightening: Six years into Mr. Obama’s presidency, the man is still a stranger.”

Now, can the President rewrite federal laws by violating the concept of “separation of powers” eviscerating congressional authority? Former Judge Andrew Napolitano asked a challenging query:

“What’s going on here?”

“What’s going on is the exercise of authoritarian impulses by a desperate President terrified of powerlessness and irrelevance, the Constitution be damned. I say “damned” because when the president writes laws, whether under the guise of administrative regulations or executive orders, he is effectively damning the Constitution by usurping the powers of Congress.”

“One of the safeguards built into the Constitution is the separation of powers: Congress writes the laws, the president enforces the laws, and the courts interpret them. The purpose of this separation is to prevent the accumulation of too much power in the hands of too few—a valid fear when the Constitution was written and a valid fear today.”

All the blurred view from Mr. O touted as a constitutional lawyer from Harvard University Law School? Isn’t his deficient view normally committed by social organizers in cities throughout the country rather than constitutional lawyers?

### Immigration challenges

The outmigration of islanders includes all jurisdictions between here and Majuro. Our fellow islanders are looking for opportunities for their families. The economic stagnancy at home creates the sentiment of hopelessness where relocation is the last ditch effort.

More than 3,000 from the CNMI have relocated since four to six years ago. They sensed it in the air—a familial economic headwind—and while money provides the means to leave, they picked up their luggage and headed to jet ways.

### Uncle Sam goes AWOL

Recent discussion on Compact Impact funds highlights Uncle Sam’s deficiency in meeting his obligations. His tardiness sometime turns discussion into spins hurting innocent migrants from the region. The Com-

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



pact agreement allows them free movement within U.S. jurisdictions.

It’s obvious that chief executives find the late federal payments a serious fiscal challenge at home. In short, local funds are diverted to accommodate the needs of our friends for healthcare and education, among others. We do so as compassionate fellow islanders.

### Health insurance skyrockets

Health insurance (Aetna) is slated to increase by 40 percent for all members in the public sector and Settlement Fund. It’s another increase most can’t afford and not when wages, salaries, and the economy have stagnated—stayed the same—for over a decade now.

Those who don’t qualify for Medicaid must quietly swallow the bitter pill of another assault on the family pocketbooks. In my case, it means an additional \$109-plus per month where even money budgeted for medication needs some serious juggling. Don’t know how to navigate the \$1,000 deductible at CHC. It’s *mea culpa* time!

The increase is especially hard for those who barely miss qualifying for Medicaid. It’s another long bout with trying to find extra income to make up for health insurance. Healthcare becomes an additional hardship for families who hardly make ends meet.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ‘Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes’

I have a question for the politically elected officials on Saipan. I’m talking about the same elected officials who should be looking out for the interest of the local constituents who trust you and give you their permission to occupy the positions you hold. Can you translate the title of this letter?

Once you have translated those words, can you reflect on how many times this saying should have been heeded on your island?

And now you have gambling.

Which brings me to the point of this letter.

Can the elected officials of the CNMI provide clear and concise statistics that prove that the decision they made in regards to licensing casino gambling will be beneficial to the local economy and validate the representations they made, without question, to the electorate as true and with absolute validity?

Can the elected officials provide studies that document the impact of gambling on a small community the size of Saipan, either positive or negative?

What measures do the elected officials of the CNMI intend to implement that will negate any potential social impacts should they arise or be discovered?

Do the elected officials of the CNMI have personnel who are qualified and experienced in dealing with the unique technological and specialized attributes that the modern gaming industry requires?

What practices, methods, or regulations will be put into place to ensure that the interests of the local voters will be protected in regards the admittance of licensed gambling?

Which brings me to the second point of this letter.

It would be interesting to see if an intelligent lawyer (or law firm)

could bring about a “class action” lawsuit against gambling in the CNMI. I’m not sure what that requires, but in my mind, the potential of “harm” (based on known statistics and studies) to a greater population that would be affected (the class), especially in such a confined locale, and also with a majority of the populace who rejected the “harm” in the first place (under protest), bears the consideration of a higher legal authority.

Which brings me to the third point of this letter.

Beware of those gifts.

What is the 2015 population of Saipan?

Let’s take an arbitrary number of 45,000. Now let’s consider that half of the CNMI population gambles. That would be 22,500. Now let’s consider that they gamble \$500 per year (underestimated). When you get it all calculated, let me know if you are starting to see where this is all going on those vouchers. *Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.*

**Jim Van**

*Las Vegas, Nevada*

## Unexpected changes in casino plans beg a lot of questions

As a member of the business community I am interested and committed to projects that build our economic base so I support Best Sunshine’s plan to invest \$7 billion constructing a mega integrated resort that adds 2,000 hotel rooms to our current inventory. This, I believe, is what the Casino Licensing or Lottery Commission approved, after the competition between Best Sunshine and Mega Stars.

Since then, a number of large changes that aren’t clear have been approved and without much public notice by the Casino Licensing Commission or the Lottery Commission. Now, the project will be undertaken in stages, beginning with a 250-room hotel and casino to be constructed in Garapan.

The actual training, according to news articles, will occur in the Bank of Guam building in Garapan, but the practice will happen at the live-training facility to be constructed in DFS. To their credit, news reports also state that the \$25 million includes lease fees and

is not to be confused with construction costs. Aside from lease fees, the bulk of these costs is in equipment and instructors. A detailed itemization is what the Lottery or Casino Commission should be requesting at this time so this information can be shared with the public and the business community.

This newest change sounds like a training center but isn’t only a training center but a live-training center, which means customers. Nothing in the original request for proposals or subsequent authorizations includes this new construct but there it is. Though there is no specific language indicating that the live-training facility would generate revenue, it is hard to imagine that it would not.

It is unclear but Best Sunshine has a number of tax prerogatives built into its operations and the questions would be whether this new, smaller, live-training casino would be exempt from various taxes under this new licensing arrangement?

A number of local politicians have lined up in support of these newest changes, seemingly without any concern about how these deviations benefit the public or whether similar support would be extended to businesses that have been here for decades.

As a \$7-billion, 2,000 room, mega-integrated casino development, special accommodations, tax provisions, etc. are mostly spelled out in the original request for proposals and subsequent license. As a 250-room hotel with live-training casino, the special provisions do not necessarily apply. These are not the original terms. And there is no certainty that Phases II through VI will ever be constructed. It is so far into the future so lawmakers and government officials have an obligation to make sure that the people’s interests are adequately protected.

**Juan S. Tenorio**

*Airport Road, Dandan*

## HILLARY

*From Page 10*

sary scandal following a disclosure earlier this week that she conducted government business entirely on a private email account as secretary of state.

Read that sentence again: She was secretary state, arguably the most important Cabinet post in the government, and yet, instead of using her government email account, she used her own. Already her apologists, and they are legion, have dismissed this as a tempest in a teapot. Ms. Clinton, they say, was under no legal requirement during her time in office to use a government email account, based on regulations put in place in 2009, the year she took office.

But that misses the point. First, her department was obligated to preserve her email records, and that didn’t happen until after she left office in 2013. Second, Ms. Clinton and her designated staff members were

allowed to pick and choose which emails were eventually turned over to the government and which to leave out as “private.” It also misses the point to claim she had no intent to deceive. It was still wrong.

The government didn’t claim custody of those 55,000 messages until 2014. That was when the department asked several secretaries of state for such documents. There were no rules in place for Ms. Clinton’s predecessors prior to 2009, though. And who’s to say she turned over all the relevant material?

The Clinton camp’s cavalier disregard for the public’s need to know is disappointing, to say the least. If private email accounts aren’t in the hands of the government, they are beyond the reach of the Freedom of Information Act and congressional scrutiny. That’s why the rules exist. It should be up to government archivists who value transparency over concealment, to exercise their professional judgment about what is personal and what isn’t.

Democrats have protested that Republicans will turn this into a political circus. Of course, they will. Had a Republican done the same thing,

a Democratic Congress would pounce on it. And it doesn’t exonerate Ms. Clinton just because her foes on Capitol Hill will seek to turn it to their advantage. This goes beyond partisan skirmishing.

When Gov. Rick Scott got caught up in his own scandal over using private emails to conduct public business, Democrats and transparency advocates were quick to criticize. So were we. Mr. Scott’s claims that he didn’t know the rules were a bit more plausible than Ms. Clinton’s, coming from someone with little experience in government. Former Gov. Jeb Bush’s own release of emails from his time as governor come from an era before government rules about preserving emails became standard.


For Democrats, the problem is that there is no Plan B after Hillary, while Republicans enjoy a wide array of eager presidential hopefuls. The air of entitlement that clings to the Clintons remains a huge vulnerability for Democrats—and a turnoff for voters.



# The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼75°


THURSDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼76°


FRIDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼75°


SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼76°

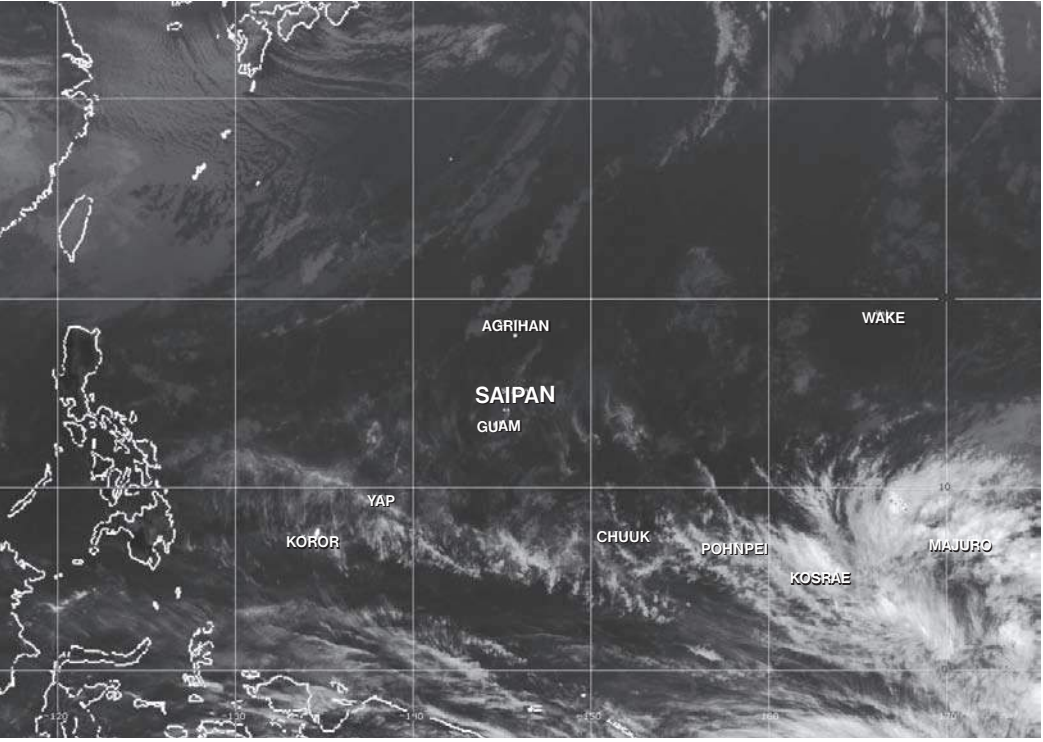
SUNDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼76°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015


Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A broad circulation is centered south of Majuro near 5N171E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are present across a large area between 1N and 11N from 162E to 177E. This includes Kosrae and most of the Marshall Islands. A cold front extends from 25N150E through 18N130E. Low clouds and patchy showers are found along and up to 120 miles north of this boundary.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

| Micronesia    |               |     |     |
|---------------|---------------|-----|-----|
| Guam And Rota | Partly Cloudy | ▲83 | ▼76 |
| Palau         | Partly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼76 |
| Yap           | Partly Cloudy | ▲84 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk         | Partly Cloudy | ▲85 | ▼79 |
| Pohnpei       | Mostly Cloudy | ▲88 | ▼79 |
| Kosrae        | Thunderstorms | ▲84 | ▼78 |
| Majuro        | Thunderstorms | ▲84 | ▼79 |

| Around the Globe |               |     |     |
|------------------|---------------|-----|-----|
| Auckland         | Mostly Sunny  | ▲79 | ▼64 |
| Beijing          | Sunny         | ▲55 | ▼27 |
| Hong Kong        | Sunny         | ▲66 | ▼58 |
| Honolulu         | Partly Cloudy | ▲79 | ▼67 |
| London           | Mostly Sunny  | ▲54 | ▼37 |
| Los Angeles      | Mostly Sunny  | ▲82 | ▼58 |
| Manila           | Partly Cloudy | ▲85 | ▼71 |
| Melbourne        | Sunny         | ▲79 | ▼57 |
| Miami            | Mostly Sunny  | ▲82 | ▼74 |
| New York         | Rain          | ▲50 | ▼43 |
| Osaka            | Partly Cloudy | ▲47 | ▼40 |
| Paris            | Cloudy        | ▲56 | ▼41 |
| Pusan            | Windy         | ▲52 | ▼30 |
| Rome             | Mostly Sunny  | ▲62 | ▼43 |
| Salem            | Mostly Cloudy | ▲68 | ▼49 |
| San Francisco    | Mostly Cloudy | ▲68 | ▼55 |
| Seoul            | Mostly Sunny  | ▲46 | ▼26 |
| Tokyo            | Mostly Sunny  | ▲54 | ▼37 |
| Washington, DC   | Rain          | ▲53 | ▼49 |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

| Tides         |       |            |          |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------|
| Saipan Harbor |       |            |          |
| 5:52 AM       | Today | Low Tide:  | 0.8 Feet |
| 11:37 AM      | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 6:35 PM       | Today | Low Tide:  | 0.3 Feet |

| Sunrise/Sunset |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Today          | 6:29 AM | 6:27 PM |
| Thursday       | 6:28 AM | 6:27 PM |
| Friday         | 6:27 AM | 6:27 PM |
| Saturday       | 6:26 AM | 6:27 PM |
| Sunday         | 6:26 AM | 6:28 PM |

| Moonrise/Moonset |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Today            | 10:51 PM | 9:53A M  |
| Thursday         | 11:43 PM | 10:39 AM |
| Friday           |          | 11:28 AM |
| Saturday         | 12:37 AM | 12:21 PM |
| Sunday           | 1:31 AM  | 1:17 PM  |

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK

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| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015 |         |          |                          |  |  |                        |         |           |                          |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|---------|----------|--------------------------|--|--|------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------------|--|--|
| DEPARTURES                            |         |          |                          |  |  | ARRIVALS               |         |           |                          |  |  |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)                     |         |          |                          |  |  | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN      |         |           |                          |  |  |
| UA5070                                | 4:15am  | 5:05am   | Daily                    |  |  | UA5069                 | 2:45am  | 3:35am    | Daily                    |  |  |
| UA5068                                | 8:00am  | 8:50am   | 3                        |  |  | UA5071                 | 6:40am  | 7:30am    | 3                        |  |  |
| UA5068                                | 8:40am  | 9:30am   | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7         |  |  | UA5071                 | 7:15am  | 8:05am    | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7         |  |  |
| UA5039                                | 2:20pm  | 4:00pm   | 6, 7 via Rota            |  |  | UA5039                 | 1:00pm  | 1:50pm    | 6, 7                     |  |  |
| UA5078                                | 3:10pm  | 4:00pm   | 1, 5                     |  |  | UA5038                 | 1:10pm  | 2:40pm    | 2, 4 via Rota            |  |  |
| UA5038                                | 3:10pm  | 4:00pm   | 2, 4                     |  |  | UA5077                 | 1:50pm  | 2:40pm    | 1, 5                     |  |  |
| UA5040                                | 6:55pm  | 7:45pm   | 1, 5                     |  |  | UA5041                 | 5:35pm  | 6:25pm    | 1, 5                     |  |  |
| UA5078                                | 8:35pm  | 9:25pm   | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7            |  |  | UA5077                 | 7:15pm  | 8:05pm    | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7            |  |  |
| UA5044                                | 10:40pm | 11:30pm  | 1, 5                     |  |  | UA5043                 | 9:20pm  | 10:10pm   | 1, 5                     |  |  |
| SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)                     |         |          |                          |  |  | GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)  |         |           |                          |  |  |
| UA5039                                | 2:20pm  | 2:55pm   | 6, 7                     |  |  | UA5038                 | 1:00pm  | 1:35pm    | 2, 4                     |  |  |
| ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)                 |         |          |                          |  |  | ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN      |         |           |                          |  |  |
| UA5039                                | 3:25pm  | 4:00pm   | 6, 7                     |  |  | UA5038                 | 2:05pm  | 2:40pm    | 2, 4                     |  |  |
| SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)                    |         |          |                          |  |  | PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN     |         |           |                          |  |  |
| DL287                                 | 6:05am  | 1:10am+1 | 2, 6 via NRT             |  |  | DL298                  | 4:35am  | 3:00pm    | 3, 7 via NRT             |  |  |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)                   |         |          |                          |  |  | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN    |         |           |                          |  |  |
| DL287                                 | 6:05am  | 8:40am   | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6            |  |  | DL298                  | 10:25am | 3:00pm    | Daily                    |  |  |
| DL297                                 | 4:20pm  | 7:05pm   | Daily                    |  |  | DL288                  | 8:55pm  | 1:25am+1  | 1, 3, 4, 5, 7            |  |  |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)                    |         |          |                          |  |  | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN     |         |           |                          |  |  |
| OZ606                                 | 2:10am  | 6:00am   | 1                        |  |  | OZ603                  | 9:00am  | 2:20pm    | Daily                    |  |  |
| OZ606                                 | 2:40am  | 6:30am   | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7         |  |  | 7C 3402                | 10:10am | 3:30pm    | Daily                    |  |  |
| OZ6063                                | 3:20am  | 7:10am   | 3, 4, 6, 7               |  |  | OZ605                  | 7:40pm  | 1:00am+1  | 7                        |  |  |
| OZ604                                 | 3:20pm  | 7:10pm   | Daily                    |  |  | OZ605                  | 8:10pm  | 1:30am+1  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6         |  |  |
| 7C 3401                               | 4:30pm  | 8:20pm   | Daily                    |  |  | OZ6053                 | 8:50pm  | 2:10am+1  | 2, 3, 5, 6               |  |  |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)                    |         |          |                          |  |  | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN     |         |           |                          |  |  |
| OZ608                                 | 3:10am  | 6:20am   | 4, 7                     |  |  | OZ607                  | 9:00pm  | 1:50am+1  | 3, 6                     |  |  |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)                 |         |          |                          |  |  | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN  |         |           |                          |  |  |
| 3U8648                                | 6:00am  | 8:35am   | 1, 4, 5, 7               |  |  | 3U8647                 | 10:30pm | 4:30am+1  | 3, 4, 6, 7               |  |  |
| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)                  |         |          |                          |  |  | BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN   |         |           |                          |  |  |
| MU764                                 | 1:30am  | 5:30am   | 1, 4, 5, 7               |  |  | MU763                  | 4:30pm  | 12:30am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7               |  |  |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)                |         |          |                          |  |  | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN |         |           |                          |  |  |
| 3U8646                                | 4:30am  | 7:30am   | 2, 6                     |  |  | 3U8645                 | 7:55pm  | 3:10am+1  | 1, 5                     |  |  |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)                   |         |          |                          |  |  | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN    |         |           |                          |  |  |
| OZ606/701                             | 2:10am  | 11:15am  | 1 via ICN                |  |  | OZ704/603              | 12:10am | 2:20pm    | Daily via ICN            |  |  |
| OZ606/701                             | 2:40am  | 11:15am  | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |  |  | PR110/UA5041           | 7:35am  | 6:25pm    | 1, 5 via GUM             |  |  |
| UA5069/PR111                          | 2:45am  | 4:50pm   | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM    |  |  | PR110/UA5077           | 7:35am  | 8:05pm    | 3, 6, 7 via GUM          |  |  |
| UA5070/191                            | 4:15am  | 7:20am   | 2, 7 via GUM             |  |  | PR110/UA5043           | 7:35am  | 10:10pm   | 1, 5 via GUM             |  |  |
| UA5070/191                            | 4:15am  | 9:00am   | 3, 6 via GUM             |  |  | DL172/288              | 9:40am  | 1:25am+1  | 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT    |  |  |
| UA5070/183                            | 4:15am  | 8:45pm   | 2, 5 via GUM             |  |  | UA190/5077             | 9:55am  | 8:05pm    | 2, 7 via GUM             |  |  |
| UA5070/183                            | 4:15am  | 9:10pm   | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM    |  |  | UA190/5077             | 10:00am | 8:05pm    | 3, 6 via GUM             |  |  |
| DL287/275                             | 6:05am  | 9:35pm   | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT    |  |  | OZ702/605              | 12:30pm | 1:10am+1  | 7 via ICN                |  |  |
| UA5071/PR111                          | 6:40am  | 4:50pm   | 3 via GUM                |  |  | OZ702/605              | 12:30pm | 1:30am+1  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |  |  |
| UA5071/PR111                          | 7:15am  | 4:50pm   | 1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM       |  |  | UA184/5071             | 10:55pm | 7:30am+1  | 3 via GUM                |  |  |
| UA5068/183                            | 8:00am  | 9:50pm   | 3 via GUM                |  |  | UA184/5071             | 10:55pm | 8:05am+1  | 1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM       |  |  |
| UA5068/183                            | 8:40am  | 9:30pm   | 2, 5 via GUM             |  |  | UA184/5039             | 10:55pm | 1:50pm+1  | 6, 7 via GUM             |  |  |
| UA5068/183                            | 8:40am  | 9:50pm   | 1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM       |  |  | UA184/5038             | 10:55pm | 2:40pm+1  | 4 via GUM-Rota           |  |  |
| UA5039/183                            | 2:20pm  | 9:50pm   | 6, 7 via Rota-GUM        |  |  | UA184/5077             | 10:55pm | 2:40pm+1  | 1 via GUM                |  |  |
| UA5038/183                            | 3:10pm  | 9:30pm   | 2 via GUM                |  |  | UA184/5041             | 10:55pm | 6:25pm+1  | 1 via GUM                |  |  |
| UA5078/183                            | 3:10pm  | 9:30pm   | 5 via GUM                |  |  | UA184/5077             | 10:55pm | 8:05pm+1  | 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM       |  |  |
| UA5078/183                            | 3:10pm  | 9:50pm   | 1 via GUM                |  |  | UA184/5043             | 10:55pm | 10:10pm+1 | 1 via GUM                |  |  |
| UA5038/183                            | 3:10pm  | 9:50pm   | 4 via GUM                |  |  | UA184/5071             | 10:59pm | 8:05am+1  | 2, 5 via GUM             |  |  |
| OZ604/703                             | 3:20pm  | 11:00pm  | Daily via ICN            |  |  | UA184/5038             | 10:59pm | 2:40pm+1  | 2 via GUM-Rota           |  |  |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)                |         |          |                          |  |  | HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN |         |           |                          |  |  |
| OZ606/721                             | 2:10am  | 11:50am  | 1 via ICN                |  |  | OZ746/603              | 12:30am | 2:20pm    | Daily via ICN            |  |  |
| OZ606/723                             | 2:10am  | 12:50pm  | 1 via ICN                |  |  | OZ750/603              | 1:10am  | 2:20pm    | Daily via ICN            |  |  |
| OZ606/721                             | 2:40am  | 11:50am  | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |  |  | OZ722/605              | 1:15pm  | 1:10am+1  | 7 via ICN                |  |  |
| OZ606/723                             | 2:40am  | 12:50pm  | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |  |  | OZ724/605              | 2:20pm  | 1:10am+1  | 7 via ICN                |  |  |
| UA5070/179                            | 4:15am  | 10:35pm  | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM       |  |  | OZ722/605              | 1:15pm  | 1:30am+1  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |  |  |
| UA5068/179                            | 8:00am  | 10:35pm  | 3 via GUM                |  |  | OZ724/605              | 2:20pm  | 1:30am+1  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |  |  |
| UA5068/179                            | 8:40am  | 10:35pm  | 1, 5, 6 via GUM          |  |  | UA180/5071             | 10:55pm | 7:30am+1  | 3 via GUM                |  |  |
| UA5039/179                            | 2:20pm  | 10:35pm  | 6 via Rota-GUM           |  |  | UA180/5071             |         |           |                          |  |  |



Business

Apple Watch moves Internet out of your pocket

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Apple wants to move the Internet from your pocket to your wrist.

Time will tell if millions of consumers are willing to spend \$350 on up—there’s an 18-karat gold version that starts at \$10,000—for a wearable device that still requires a wirelessly connected smartphone to deliver its most powerful features.

But CEO Tim Cook is selling the Apple Watch as the next must-have device, able to serve people’s information needs all day long, like no other tool has quite been able to do.

“Now it’s on your wrist. It’s not in your pocket or pocket-book,” Cook said before unveiling the new line on Monday. “We think the Apple Watch is going to be integral to your day.”

Apple wants this wrist-watch—which piggybacks on a nearby smartphone’s Internet connection through Wi-Fi or Bluetooth—to be seen as so revolutionary that it requires its own new lingo.

So while the watch face provides most of the same information as smartphones do, the back of the watch sends “taptic

feedback,” tapping the wrist to remind the wearer to get up and burn more calories.

“It’s like having a coach on your wrist!” gushed Cook, touting the potential health uses of a computer that sticks to your skin all day.

The gadget also introduces “digital touch,” a new way of messaging that enables people to draw and send little figures with their fingertips and have them arrive on a friend’s watch face dynamically, in the same way they were drawn.

Convincing consumers they can’t live without an expensive new device isn’t easy, but Apple’s strongest selling points include “convenience and immediacy,” along with high-end design features and some useful new apps, said Carolina Milanesi, a tech analyst with Kantar Worldpanel.

“If you don’t have to be fumbling around for your phone, that can make a difference,” agreed analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights and Strategy.

Initial consumer reactions ranged from die-hard Apple fans vowing to buy the watch



AP  
Event attendees get a look at varieties of the new Apple Watch on display in the demo room after an Apple event on Monday, March 9, 2015, in San Francisco.

immediately, to naysayers who don’t see the point of paying so much to see updates on their wrist instead of their smartphone.

“I think it’s a tough market they are trying to get into, and I don’t see much promise that is going to come out of it,” said Joshua Powers, 21, a junior at Emerson College in Boston who owns an iPhone, an iPad and a MacBook computer.

As expected, the previously announced starting price of \$349 is only for the entry-level Sport model. Prices range from \$549 to \$1,100 for the mid-range watch. That’s not out of line for a high-quality watch, analysts said.

But Cook did not answer a key question for price-conscious consumers, Moorhead noted: How will Apple update the watch when it releases new models?

Apple did answer another vital question, promising an estimated 18-hour battery life before the watch needs to be taken off and attached to a magnetic recharger.

Numerous tech companies are already selling smartwatches, from the Samsung Gear and Motorola’s Moto 360 to the Pebble Steel and other models made by smaller startups. Many run on Android Wear, the software platform from Google, and range from \$100 to \$500 or more.

GM plans \$5B stock buyback, averts showdown with hedge funds

**DETROIT (AP)**—General Motors announced a \$5 billion stock buyback as part of a plan to return more cash to investors. In return, an activist shareholder decided to drop a potentially divisive bid for a seat on the company’s board.

The moves, announced Monday, are part of a deal with Harry Wilson, a former member of the government task force that restructured GM coming out of its 2009 bankruptcy.

Wilson, who represents four hedge funds which own about 2 percent of the company, had previously accused GM of hoarding cash to the detriment of shareholders and had sought an \$8 billion buyback and a board seat.

But on Monday he said he was impressed at how quickly GM’s management responded, adding that the company agreed to just about everything the funds wanted.

“We basically said thank you,” Wilson said.

GM had \$25.2 billion in cash at the end of last year, part of what it called a “fortress balance sheet” designed to withstand another financial crisis. Going forward the automaker plans to maintain a cash balance of \$20 billion and aims to keep its investment-grade credit rating.

The share repurchase will begin immediately and finish before the end of 2016. Investors liked the announcement. GM shares rose 97 cents, or 2.7 percent, to \$37.51 in midday trading Monday.

Talks with Wilson’s group had been going on for about two weeks, GM CEO Mary Barra said Monday. She said other major shareholders agreed with the buyback.

She indicated that the buyback might have come without Wilson’s prodding. “We were on a path to do this anyway,” Barra said Monday.

**BUSINESS BRIEFS**

**Woman: Male colleague at venture firm ‘relentless’ in affair**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—The woman behind a high-profile gender bias lawsuit against a major Silicon Valley venture capital firm testified Monday that a male colleague was “relentless” in his pursuit of her and cut her out of email chains and meetings when she broke off their affair. Plaintiff Ellen Pao appeared calm and composed as she took the witness stand for the first time in the case against Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. The lawsuit has spotlighted gender imbalance at elite Silicon Valley investment companies that are stacked with some of the nation’s most accomplished graduates—multiple-degree holders from schools such as Harvard and Stanford who are competing aggressively to back the next Google or Amazon. But women are grossly underrepresented in the venture capital and technology sectors. Pao is seeking \$16 million in damages after claiming she was passed over for a promotion because she is a woman and then fired in 2012 after she complained.

**Part of Houston channel shut after tanker, carrier collide**

**HOUSTON (AP)**—A portion of the busy Houston Ship Channel was shut Monday after two 600-foot ships collided in fog, causing a leak of flammable liquid. Methyl tertiary-butyl ether, or MTBE, a gasoline additive aboard the Danish-flagged chemical tanker Carla Maersk, leaked from tanks that ruptured in the vessel’s collision with a 623-foot Liberian bulk carrier, Conti Peridot, Coast Guard Petty Officer Manda Emery said. Three cargo tanks on the vessel were ruptured, releasing an unknown quantity of the gasoline additive, said Coast Guard Capt. Brian Penoyer, commander of the Houston-Galveston Coast Guard District. “This is not a cargo chemical that is easy to clean up,” he said. Crews were examining the vessel’s tanks to determine how much of the product may have been spilled into the 50-mile channel that connects the Gulf of Mexico to the Port of Houston.

Delta in Fortune’s Top 50 most admired list

**SAIPAN**—Delta Air Lines (NYSE: DAL) has been named in the top 50 of *FORTUNE* magazine’s list of the World’s Most Admired Companies for the second consecutive year. Delta was also named the most admired airline for the fourth time in the past five years.

Fortune’s top 50 rankings are based on a survey which asks leaders across all industries to identify the companies they most admire. The airline rankings are done with the participation of airline executives, board members and industry analysts, who are asked to rate companies in their industry based on set criteria, ranging from innovation to long-term investment value to global competitiveness.

“This is a direct reflection on the people of Delta,” said Delta’s CEO Richard Anderson. “This honor confirms what we have known all along: Our people, culture and values – our biggest competitive advantages – are admired by business leaders around the globe.”

In 2014, Delta ran the best global operation in the industry, significantly improved its customer satisfaction scores and generated more than \$4.5 billion in pre-tax profits, among many other accomplishments.

Delta Air Lines serves more than 170 million customers each year. Delta has ranked No.1 in the Business Travel News Annual Airline survey for four consecutive years, a first for any airline. Additionally, Delta was named to *FORTUNE* magazine’s top 50 World’s Most Admired Companies in addition to being named the most admired airline for the fourth time in five years. With an industry-leading global network, Delta and the Delta Connection carriers offer service to 326 destinations in 59 countries on six continents. Headquartered in Atlanta, Delta employs nearly 80,000 employees worldwide and operates a mainline fleet of more than 700 aircraft. The airline is a founding member of the SkyTeam global alliance and participates in the industry’s leading trans-Atlantic joint venture with Air France-KLM and Alitalia as well as a newly formed joint venture with Virgin Atlantic. Including its worldwide alliance partners, Delta offers customers more than 15,000 daily flights, with key hubs and markets including Amsterdam, Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New York-JFK, New York-LaGuardia, Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Salt Lake City, Seattle and Tokyo-Narita. Delta has invested billions of dollars in airport facilities, global products, services and technology to enhance the customer experience in the air and on the ground. Additional information is available on [delta.com](http://delta.com), Twitter @Delta, Google.com/+Delta, Facebook.com/delta and Delta’s blog [takingoff.delta.com](http://takingoff.delta.com). (PR)

|   |                                       |                                    |  |                      |   |  |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|--|--|
| <div>STOCK</div> <div>PORTFOLIO</div> <div></div> | LEADING INDICATORS                    |                                    |  | EXCHANGE RATES       |   |  |  |
|   | DOW<br>17,995.72<br>+138.94<br>+0.78% | S&P<br>2,079.43<br>+8.17<br>+0.39% | NASDAQ<br>4,942.44<br>+15.07<br>+0.31% | In U.S. dollar terms | Australian Dollar<br>British Pound<br>Canadian Dollar<br>Chinese Yuan<br>Euro | Hong Kong Dollar<br>Indian Rupee<br>Indonesian Rupiah<br>Japanese Yen<br>Malaysian Ringgit<br>New Zealand Dollar | Philippine Peso<br>Singapore Dollar<br>South Korean Won<br>Swiss Franc<br>Taiwan Dollar<br>Thailand Baht |



## Nation

## Major survey shows gun ownership declining

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of Americans who live in a household with at least one gun is lower than it's ever been, according to a major American trend survey that finds the decline in gun ownership is paralleled by a reduction in the number of Americans who hunt.

According to the latest General Social Survey, 32 percent of Americans either own a firearm themselves or live with someone who does, which ties a record low set in 2010. That's a significant decline since the late 1970s and early 1980s, when about half of Americans told researchers there was a gun in their household.

The General Social Survey is conducted by NORC, an independent research organization based at the University of Chicago, with money from the National Science Foundation. Because of its long-running and comprehensive set of questions about the demographics, behaviors and attitudes of the American public, it is a highly regarded source of data about social trends.

Data from the 2014 survey was released last week, and an analysis of its findings on gun ownership and attitudes toward gun permits was conducted by General Social Survey staff.

The drop in the number of



In this Feb. 6, 2015, file photo, a dealer arranges handguns in a display case in advance of a show at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds in Little Rock, Ark.

Americans who own a gun or live in a household with one is probably linked to a decline in the popularity of hunting, from 32 percent who said they lived in a household with at

least one hunter in 1977 to less than half that number saying so now.

That the number of households with at least one gun is declining doesn't necessarily

mean that the number being purchased is on the decline. Data from the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check system shows that in recent years there's actually

been an increase in the number of background checks being run, suggesting the total number of firearms being purchased is going up.

But those are concentrated in fewer hands than they were in the 1980s, the General Social Survey finds. The 2014 poll finds that 22 percent of Americans own a firearm,

down from a high of 31 percent who said so in 1985.

The survey also finds a shrinking gender gap in personal firearm ownership as a result of a decline in the percentage of men who own one, from 50 percent in 1980 to 35 percent in 2014.

Fewer women than men own guns, but the percentage among women has held fairly steady since 1980, with 12 percent now saying they personally own a gun.

Only 14 percent of adults under age 35, but 31 percent of those over age 65, say they personally own a gun. That gap has increased over time—in 1980, younger adults were only slightly less likely than older ones to report that they owned a gun.

The poll finds half of Republicans live in households with at least one gun, which is twice as high as ownership among Democrats or independents.

People in higher-income households are significantly more likely than those in lower-income households to own a gun, the survey finds. Gun ownership rates also vary by race, with 4 in 10 white Americans living in households with a gun compared with less than 2 in 10 blacks and Hispanics.

Blacks and Hispanics are also more likely than whites to support requiring a permit to own a gun, although large majorities among all three groups support requiring a permit.

## Rising price of heroin-overdose antidote worries advocates

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—Price hikes are curtailing access to a popular form of an antidote to heroin overdoses, with costs doubling in the past year and the manufacturer's stock price rising by 70 percent since it went public.

Advocates fear the higher cost of naloxone, often sold in the U.S. under the brand name Narcan, will ultimately lead to the deaths of addicts who could have been saved if they'd had access to the drug.

Officials across the country have largely agreed it makes sense to hand out naloxone to police, drug users and families

of addicts, and in some places they're now scrambling to negotiate discounts for programs that buy it in bulk for public distribution.

"If you have a fire extinguisher that costs several hundred dollars, some people are going to go without and some are going to get burned," said Daniel Wolfe, director of the international harm reduction program at the Open Society Foundations.

Naloxone reverses the effects of opioids—drugs derived from opium, including heroin—on brain receptors. Advocates say it has no major side effects other than opioid-

withdrawal symptoms and does not create a high.

It saved Alicia Gibbons' daughter after an overdose in New Jersey last year.

Gibbons received training in the injectable form of naloxone while her daughter, Ashley Gibbons, was in jail. A week after being released in April, Ashley Gibbons overdosed in a bathtub at her mother's home in Mays Landing.

Alicia Gibbons' boyfriend broke down the door to the bathroom. She said her hands shook as she got the medicine into the syringe to give her unresponsive daughter first one

shot of naloxone, then a second. Her daughter convulsed on the floor and vomited; then paramedics arrived.

Ashley Gibbons said her mother saved her.

"She's always going to be my hero," she said.

Alicia Gibbons said the price increase is troubling: "I think it's sad, now that they've found something that could save people, they raise the price up."

JSAS HealthCare, a clinic based on the New Jersey shore, began last year training community members to administer the drug and providing it to them with the help of state funds.

## Train crashes into tractor-trailer; at least 55 hurt

HALIFAX, N.C. (AP)—An Amtrak train slammed into a tractor-trailer that got stuck on the tracks while trying to make a difficult left-hand turn Monday. One of the train's cars toppled and the conductor and at least 54 others were injured.

It was the third serious train crash in less than two months. Two deadly crashes in New York and California in February killed a total of seven people and injured 30.

The oversized flatbed trailer involved in Monday's crash was

transporting a modular building wrapped in blue plastic and jammed with electrical equipment, said Lt. Jeff Gordon, a spokesman for the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

One of the troopers escorting the truck from Clayton, North Carolina, to the Virginia border was trying to help the driver negotiate a difficult left-hand turn across the tracks onto a two-lane highway in the town of Halifax, Gordon said.

But the 164-foot tractor-trailer combination, longer than half

a football field, couldn't navigate it, he said.

During the five minutes or so the trooper and driver spent attempting to get the truck turned and off the tracks, there was no indication of an approaching train, Gordon said. When the train appeared, it set off warning flashers and the crossing arms came down as the truck was still straddling the tracks, he said. The train hit the truck shortly afterward, Gordon said.

He said the truck was unable to

back off the tracks before the train hit because traffic had backed up on the road behind him.

Eyewitness Leslie Cipriani, who was in a car with a friend at a stop sign, heard the sound of the oncoming train and said she saw the crossing arms hit the tractor-trailer.

"I saw him jump out of the truck when he knew he couldn't beat it. ... I heard the train noise and thought, 'Oh, my God, it's going to happen,'" said Cipriani, who shot video of the collision with her cellphone.

## Baby improving after 14 hours in overturned car in icy river

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Police responding to a report from a fisherman about an overturned car in an icy Utah river were stunned to discover an 18-month-old girl dangling in a car seat inside, unconscious but alive. They found the baby in the back seat and a woman dead in the front seat after flipping over the car. A firefighter jumped into the river and cut the car-seat straps, freeing the baby who was wearing only a flannel onesie and no hat or gloves. Officers then formed a line in the river and handed the cold child from one person to the next until she was on the shoreline and in emergency workers' arms. Two days later, the toddler was recovering at a hospital, though authorities still don't know exactly how she survived hanging upside-down for nearly 14 hours in frigid temperatures with no food or water. "It's heartbreaking. Was she crying most the night?" Spanish Fork Police Officer Tyler Beddoes said. "It's a miracle. ... She was needed for sure elsewhere."

## Univ. of Oklahoma severs ties with frat after racist chant

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—The president of the University of Oklahoma severed the school's ties with a national fraternity on Monday and ordered that its on-campus house be shuttered after several members took part in a racist chant caught on video. President David Boren said he was sickened and couldn't eat or sleep after learning about the video Sunday afternoon. The video, which was posted online, shows several people on a bus participating in a chant that included a racial slur, referenced lynching and indicated black students would never be admitted to OU's chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The Oklahoma football team decided to protest rather than practice on Monday. At the team's indoor practice facility, coach Bob Stoops led the way as players, joined by athletic director Joe Castiglione, walked arm-in-arm, wearing black. Meanwhile, a top high school recruit withdrew his commitment to the university after seeing the video.



# Asia

## Tokyo remembers devastating, overlooked WWII firebombings

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan mourned Tuesday for the 105,400 people killed in a single night 70 years ago, when U.S. B-29 bombers obliterated much of Tokyo in the deadliest conventional bomb attack ever.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe bowed in a somber ceremony held in a downtown temple that was built to commemorate deaths from a 1923 earthquake, but is also used as a memorial for the victims of World War II bombings.

“With the lessons of the atrocities of war etched deeply in our hearts, we must humbly face the past and do our utmost to contribute to world peace,” said Abe, surrounded by white floral wreaths and chrysanthemums, as a group of dignitaries, survivors and other residents looked on.

The March 10, 1945, attack on Tokyo killed more people than the Aug. 9 atomic bombing of Nagasaki. The death toll was on par with the Aug. 6 atomic attack on Hiroshima.

But the firebombing and similar ones that followed in more than 60 other Japanese cities have received little attention, eclipsed by the atomic bombings and Japan’s postwar rush to rebuild. The only formal public monument for the Tokyo victims is a modest floral memorial near the temple where Tuesday’s ceremony was held.

Haruyo Nihei, just 8 when the bombs fell, was among many survivors who had kept silent for decades. A half-century passed before she even shared her experiences with her own son.



“Our parents would just say, ‘That’s a different era,’” Nihei said. “They wouldn’t talk about it. And I figured my own family wouldn’t understand.”

Now, as their numbers dwindle, survivors are determined to tell their stories while they still can.

### ‘HELLISH FRENZY’

The B-29s flew over Tokyo in the dead of night, dumping massive payloads of cluster bombs equipped with a then-recent invention: napalm. A fifth of Tokyo was left a smoldering expanse of charred bodies and rubble.

Where earlier raids targeted aircraft factories and military facilities, the Tokyo firebombing was aimed largely at civilians, in places including Tokyo’s downtown area known as “shitamachi,” where people lived in traditional wood and paper homes at densities sometimes exceeding 100,000 people per square mile.

“There were plenty of small factories, but this area was chosen specifically because it was easy to burn,” says historian Masahiko Yamabe, who was born just months after the war’s end.

Another departure from earlier raids: the bombers flew low.



**AP**  
This combo of two photos shows initial destruction and reconstruction after the March 10, 1945 firebombing.

estimates are significantly higher. Fifteen million of the 72 million Japanese were left homeless.

The bombing campaign set a military precedent for targeting civilian areas that persisted into the Korean and Vietnam wars and beyond. But the non-atomic attacks have been largely overlooked.

“Both governments, the press, media, radio, even novelists ... decided the crucial story was the atomic bomb,” said Mark Selden, a Cornell University history professor. “This allowed them to avoid addressing some very important questions.”

Firebombing survivors feel their pain has been forgotten, by history and by the government. After the war, only veterans and victims of the atomic bombings received special support.

“We civilians had no weapons and no strength to fight,” Kiyo-oka said. “We were attacked and got no compensation. I am very dissatisfied with how the government handled this.”

No specific government agency handles civilian survivors of firebombings or keeps their records, because there is no legal basis for that, said Manabu Oki at the Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry.

Yamabe, the historian, said authorities “are reluctant to acknowledge civilian suffering from the wartime leaders’ refusal to end the war earlier.”

“If they don’t disclose such data, it can’t be discussed. If the victims remain anonymous then there’s less pressure for compensation,” said Yamabe, a researcher at the privately funded Tokyo Air Raid and War Damages Resource Center, Japan’s main source of information about the firebombings.

Some survivors now refuse to be anonymous. Nihei often travels from the distant suburbs to the Tokyo Air Raid center to share her story with students and other visitors.

Years ago, Ohtake began walking the city to draw up guide maps of areas destroyed by the bombings—maps the resource center now uses.

“The United States went too far with the firebombing, but I don’t quite understand why the Japanese government and the rest of the Japanese don’t talk about this very much,” he said.

“We are not just statistics. I don’t think we’ll still be around for the 80th anniversary,” Ohtake said. “So the 70th anniversary is pretty much the last chance for us to speak up.”

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### PH military says 73 Muslim rebels dead in offensive

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Philippine forces have killed 73 hard-line Muslim rebels and a suspected foreign militant in a three-week offensive in the restive south, where 44 anti-terror police commandos were killed in January in a clash with insurgents, the military said Monday. Military spokesman Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc said six soldiers had been killed and 29 others have been wounded in the assaults that started Feb. 25 and have displaced about 25,000 villagers in a marshy region in the boundary of Maguindanao and North Cotabato provinces. Military chief of staff Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang ordered the assault against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement rebels after they attacked civilian villages. The rebels also have been implicated in the Jan. 25 killings of 44 commandos during a raid to hunt a suspected terrorist in Maguindanao.

#### Injured US envoy to be released from Seoul hospital

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—A Seoul hospital says it expects to release injured U.S. Ambassador Mark Lippert after five days of treatment because of a knife attack. Lippert has been hospitalized at Seoul’s Severance Hospital since Thursday when a knife-wielding man slashed

him on the face and wrist during a breakfast forum in Seoul. The attack has caused an outpouring of public sympathy and support for the envoy in South Korea, with high-profile figures visiting him and activists holding pro-U.S. rallies. Severance Hospital says Lippert is to leave the hospital later Tuesday. Hospital officials say Lippert still feels some pain on his wrist but it’s manageable with a weak pain reliever.

#### Bangladesh orders N. Korean diplomat out for smuggling gold

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)**—Bangladesh’s government has ordered a North Korean diplomat to leave the country after discovering \$1.4 million of unauthorized gold in his bag when he arrived at Dhaka’s airport, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday. The ministry summoned North Korean Ambassador Ri Song Hyon on Monday and gave him a 72-hour deadline to send the diplomat, Son Young Nam, back home, the official said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. Local media, citing unidentified sources, reported Monday that Son, the embassy’s first secretary for commercial and economic affairs, had already left the country secretly on Sunday night. The 27 kilograms (59 pounds) of undeclared gold was seized from Son when he arrived last Thursday at Dhaka’s Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, police said.

“It was as if we could reach out and touch the planes, they looked so big,” said Yoshitaka Kimura, whose family’s toy store in downtown Tokyo’s Asakusa was destroyed. “The bombs were raining down on us. Red, and black, that’s what I remember most.”

Nihei, now 78, was mesmerized as she watched from a railway embankment.

“It was a blazing firestorm. I saw a baby catch fire on its mother’s back, and she couldn’t put out the fire. I saw a horse being led by its owner. The horse balked and the cargo on its back caught fire, then its tail, and it burned alive, as the owner just stood there and burned with it,” she said.

Firefighter Isamu Kase was on duty at a train parts factory. He jumped onto a pump truck when the attack began, knowing the job was impossible.

“It was a hellish frenzy, absolutely horrible. People were just jumping into the canals to escape the inferno,” said Kase, 89. He said he survived because he didn’t jump in the water, but his burns were so severe he was in and out of hospital for 15 years.

Split-second choices like that determined who lived and who died.

Kimura, a 7-year-old, escaped the flames as he was blown into the entrance of a big department store while running toward the Sumida River, where tens of thousands of people died: burned, crushed, drowned or suffocated in the firestorm.

Masaharu Ohtake, then 13, fled his family’s noodle shop with a friend. Turned back by firefighters, they headed toward Tokyo Bay and again were ordered back. The boys crouched

in a factory yard, waiting as flames consumed their neighborhood.

“We saw a fire truck heaped with a mountain of bones. It was hard to understand how so many bodies could be piled up like that,” said Ohtake.

After about two hours and 40 minutes, the B-29s left.

Survivors speak of the hush as dawn broke over a wasteland of corpses and debris, studded by chimneys of bath-houses and small factories. Police photographer Koyo Ishikawa captured the carnage of charred bodies piled like blackened mannequins, tiny ones lying beside them.

“It was as if the world had ended,” said Nihei, whose father sheltered her under his body, as others piled on top and were burned and suffocated. All her family survived.

Michiko Kiyo-oka, a 21-year-old government worker living in the Asakusa district, survived by hiding under a bridge.

“When I crawled out I was so cold, so I was warming myself near one of the piles that was still smoldering. I could see an arm. I could see nostrils. But I was numb to that by then,” she said. “The smell is one that will never leave me.”

### FIGHTING TO BE REMEMBERED

From January 1944-August 1945, the U.S. dropped 157,000 tons of bombs on Japanese cities, according to the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey. It estimated that 333,000 people were killed, including the 80,000 killed in the Aug. 6 Hiroshima atomic-bomb attack and 40,000 at Nagasaki three days later. Other



## World

## Syria's 4-year march toward destruction

By RYAN LUCAS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BEIRUT (AP)**—It began in March 2011 with a few words spray-painted on a schoolyard wall: “Your turn is coming, doctor.” The doctor in question was Syrian President Bashar Assad, a trained ophthalmologist whose family has ruled the country for more than 40 years.

Inspired by uprisings rippling across the Arab world, Syrians flooded the streets for largely peaceful demonstrations demanding change and political reforms. The security services greeted them with clubs, bludgeons and bullets. The protests persisted in the face of an escalating government crackdown before the opposition eventually took up arms, slowly turning the uprising into a voracious civil war that continues to devour the country and drag the region into its maelstrom.

Four years on, there is no end in sight. As Syria marks the fourth anniversary of the uprising, here's a look at the conflict, its enormous price and how we got here:

#### WHAT HAS BEEN THE CIVIL WAR'S TOLL?

Staggering, by any measure. More than 220,000 people have been killed and an estimated 1 million wounded in a country with a pre-war population of 23 million.

Nearly 4 million people have fled Syria, putting a massive burden on the countries taking them in—Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq. Another 7.8 million people are displaced within Syria, part of an estimated 12.8 million who are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Diseases eradicated years ago, such as polio, have staged a comeback as the health care system has collapsed.

Bridges, roads, power plants, schools, hospitals, entire neighborhoods and even towns have been de-



In this picture taken Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, rubble and damaged buildings are seen in the devastated Syrian city of Ain al-Arab, also known as Kobani.

stroyed. Aleppo, once the country's largest city and its commercial capital, has been split apart and devastated by rebels and government forces.

Syria's social fabric is equally in tatters. The country is home to a tapestry of faiths and ethnicities—Sunni and Shiite Muslims, Alawites, Druze, Kurds and Christians. Before the war, the various communities by and large co-existed peacefully and even intermarried.

But the longer the war has gone on, the more sectarian it has become. All sides have committed atrocities, but the scale of the government's misdeeds is exponentially greater than the opposition's. The Sunni-dominated rebellion is trying to topple a government deeply

associated with Assad's Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam. The president's heavy reliance on regional Shiite power Iran and the Lebanese militant Hezbollah group has further fueled sectarian animosities.

#### IS IT STILL ABOUT ASSAD?

It depends on who you ask. For the armed opposition, Assad remains the murderous dictator whose ouster has always been and remains the overriding goal. That fight, however, has been largely overshadowed by the rise of the Islamic State group, which has seized control of around a third of both Syria and Iraq and declared its own self-styled caliphate. The United States and its Arab and Western allies have

been conducting airstrikes against the extremists since August, although the primary concern for the Obama administration remains Iraq, not Syria.

Washington still publicly hews to the line that Assad must go, but the White House has done little to help usher him out the door. It has repeatedly balked at boosting support for the mainstream armed opposition, and a new program in the works aims to train a small number of rebels to fight the Islamic State group, not Assad.

#### HOW IS ASSAD STILL IN POWER?

The Syrian leader's grip on power looked shaky in 2012, prompting predictions that his fall was imminent. But Assad, his inner circle and security establishment proven remarkably resil-

ient. They managed to shore up their hold on Damascus and the urban centers in the heavily populated western half of the country.

Support from Iran, a close ally, has proven instrumental in steadying Assad. On the military front, Tehran has provided advisers and billions of dollars in aid. It has helped train tens of thousands of Syrian paramilitary fighters known as the National Defense Forces, which fight on front lines across the country. Tehran's greatest contribution may be roping in Shiite militias from across the region—particularly Lebanon's Hezbollah but also fighters from Iraq—to reinforce the government's beleaguered troops.

#### WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Nothing points to the conflict ending anytime soon. The government and the opposition view the war as an existential struggle and have yet to bleed themselves out. The Islamic State group is focusing its efforts on building its self-declared caliphate and wages war against anyone that stands in its way—Assad, rebels, Kurds.

Every diplomatic effort so far has failed. Peace talks between the opposition and the government last year broke down after two rounds and zero progress. A Russian initiative this year to bring the two sides to the negotiating table in Moscow fizzled quickly after the main opposition figures boycotted.

The current U.N. envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, has set himself the more modest goal of trying to “freeze” the fighting in Aleppo, which he envisions as a first step toward a wider easing of hostilities. But even this plan faces considerable obstacles and has been greeted with skepticism. The government has agreed to halt airstrikes and shelling in Aleppo for six weeks. De Mistura is still working to secure the support of the multitude of armed opposition groups in the city, many of which distrust the envoy and the government and want a comprehensive solution.

## IS beheaded Libyan guards in attack that seized 9 foreigners

**TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)**—Militants from Libya's Islamic State affiliate beheaded eight Libyan guards in an attack on a central oil field last week during which the extremists abducted nine foreigners, a Libyan spokesman said Monday.

In the Philippines, authorities said Monday that four of their nationals were among the nine abducted from the oil field. An Austrian, a Czech, a Bangladeshi and a Ghana national were also taken while one hostage remains unidentified.

Friday's attack on the al-Ghani oil field near the town of Zalla, some 750 kilometers (470 miles) southeast of the capital, Tripoli, was part of a series of deadly assaults on Libya's oil lucrative infrastructure by the Islamic State group.

The attacks in recent weeks have forced Libya to declare 11 fields non-operational, including al-Ghani, and invoke a force majeure clause that exempts the state from contractual obligations.

Libya's military spokesman, Ahmed al-Mesmari, warned that Islamic State

militants' long-term goal is to take over Libya's petroleum industry.

“This is the lifeline of the Libyan people,” he said Monday, adding the consequences of such a loss would be dire.

During the attack on al-Ghani, an employee watched the beheadings of the eight oil guards and subsequently died of a heart attack, al-Mesmari also said. He not elaborate on how the army knew about the beheadings but the force serving as oil guards is closely allied to the Libyan military, which answers to the eastern-based government, one of Libya's two rival governments.

In the Philippines, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said Manila was working with the employer of the nine, Austrian-owned VAOS Oil Service, the Libyan government and embassies of the other foreigners abducted.

The incident brings the total number of Filipinos missing in Libya to seven. Three others were snatched in another oil field on Feb. 3 and their whereabouts also remain unknown.

Jose also appealed to around 4,000 Filipinos still in Libya to get in touch

with the Philippine embassy and avail of the government's mandatory repatriation program which covers the cost of travel back to the Philippines.

The Al-Ghani oil field had suspended operation for two weeks prior to the attack and most of the workers had left by the time the gunmen arrived there, he added.

On Sunday, Philippine diplomats met with 52 other Filipino employees of VAOS Oil at the company's headquarters in Tripoli. Jose said 36 of the 52 Filipinos have said they want to go home and more are expected to sign up for repatriation in the coming days.

The Philippines is among the world's top labor exporters with about a tenth of its 100 million people working abroad.

Three years after Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi was overthrown in an Arab Spring-inspired uprising, Libya is bitterly divided between two rival governments and a wide array of militias. The internationally recognized government and parliament were forced to relocate to the country's far east after Tripoli fell to Islamist-allied militias last summer.

## Mexican town where 43 students disappeared is opium hotbed

**IGUALA, Mexico (AP)**—The rattletrap sedan cruised the streets of Iguala, its roof crowned by a loudspeaker blaring headlines from the day's newspaper: “Another killed! Another killed!”

To the residents of Iguala, however, this hardly seemed like news. Bloodshed was part of life in Iguala before local police allegedly disappeared 43 college students here in September, and it remains so now. Despite federal efforts to wrest control, the 600 federal officers and 1,000 soldiers sent in five months ago to replace the city's police force have had no effects on the killings and kidnappings.

In a week during late February and early March, for example, at least 19 people were killed in this city of 140,000, many struck down in mafia-style hits by gunmen on motorcycles.

The violence continues because Iguala's most lucrative business still thrives: the opium trade. The city sits on a flat plain halfway between Mexico

City and Acapulco in the state of Guerrero, surrounded by steep mountains where farmers milk fields of poppies for opium paste. Rural highways radiate out of mountain valleys toward Iguala, funneling the opium through a key crossroad on the journey north to the United States.

According to one federal case in the U.S., heroin dealers on the streets of Chicago have numbers in their cell-phones with the Iguala area code.

“Iguala is the route and that hasn't changed, nor will it,” said Marina Hernandez de la Garza, a city councilwoman. “The bad guys haven't left. They're parked here.”

Gangs fight for territory and profits. In the months leading up to the disappearance of the 43, Iguala's ruling cartel, the Guerreros Unidos, worked with police to set up check points to screen for enemies coming into their territory. An untold number of people were pulled out of cars or buses and disappeared.



## Focus

# China's Xi seen at center of emerging culture of praise



AP  
In this March 4, 2015 photo, a man smokes near the souvenir plates bearing images of Chinese President Xi Jinping on display together with China's former presidents at a shop near Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

**B**EIJING (AP)—His smiling visage beams from decorative plates and plastic trinkets sold in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. State television coverage is wallpapered with his signature slogans, and his every pronouncement and meeting with foreign dignitaries leads the nightly news broadcast.

Not one, but two books collect Chinese President Xi Jinping's speeches and favorite classical Chinese allusions—highly unusual in that they have been published so early in his tenure instead of after his retirement.

Barely two years into office, Xi has attracted an extraordinary degree of attention to his public persona that veers perilously close to a full-blown personality cult. Such a phenomenon has not been seen since the days of Mao Zedong, with successors wary of the turmoil his leadership unleashed and generally favoring a dry, rule-by-consensus approach.

While the attention on Xi reflects his popularity with the public, it's also a sign of how thoroughly he's consolidated power by sidelining or reducing the influence of rivals in the ruling Communist Party. Like Chairman Mao, Xi even has a popular personal sobriquet: "Xi Dada," roughly translated as "Daddy Xi."

The son of a party elder, Xi has always had a sense of destiny about himself, say observers and those who knew him as

a younger man, believing that he and others in the "second red generation" are the rightful inheritors of the communist state.

The portly, round-faced Xi isn't about to replace the portrait of Mao hanging from Tiananmen Gate in the heart of Beijing. But he's becoming more and more of a ubiquitous presence in Chinese life, and a nearly unstoppable force behind the scenes.

"It's as if Xi is saying, 'I'm my party and I'll have it the way I want to,'" said June Teufel Dreyer, a China politics expert at the University of Miami.

Xi is front-and-center again as the national legislature holds its annual session in Beijing, seated in the heart of the vast Great Hall of the People and meeting with delegates from across the sprawling nation. The National People's Congress session, which opened Thursday, includes a report summarizing the accomplishments of the past year and laying out the agenda for the next 12 months.

Formally, Xi's power is derived from his three main titles as Communist Party secretary-general, president of the People's Republic of China, and chairman of the Central Military Commission that controls the 2.3 million-member armed forces, the world's largest standing military.

Yet, he has significantly augmented his authority by heading up a long list of leadership panels on key issues from the economy to Internet policy, leaving Premier Li Keqiang, supposedly his partner in governance, a much diminished figure. Xi even established a new national

security council with himself as chairman, a feat attempted but ultimately abandoned by his predecessors.

"We certainly see an attempt to cultivate a personality cult, and this is only natural because he wants to concentrate power in his hands, to have the momentum and the political force in order to promote his program," said Joseph Cheng, chair of the political science department at the City University of Hong Kong.

An imposing personal presence may be a prerequisite for shoving through Xi's ambitious agenda. With planning and patience, Xi has prosecuted a sweeping anti-corruption crackdown that has ensnared top generals and party officials. He's injected China into world events where former leaders feared to tread, struck a bold climate agreement with the U.S. and launched a sweeping vision for a "New Silk Road" linking China to markets in western Asia.

That authority seems to have given him and his close supporters the confidence to spread his personal maxims, pronouncements and policies as far as they can go.

"I think it is all kind of somewhat more reflective of the leadership style under Mao Zedong or (successor) Deng Xiaoping, as compared to anything we've seen more recently," former U.S. ambassador to Beijing Jon Huntsman said at a recent Council on Foreign Relations forum in Washington.

Efforts to boost Xi's image were underscored at last month's nationally televised Lunar New Year gala, with his political themes, particularly his concept

of the "Chinese Dream," saturating the cavalcade of skits, songs and filmed segments. In one highlight, performers crooned a syrupy musical tribute titled "I Give You My Heart" in front of film clips of Xi handing out blankets, chatting with farmers and otherwise humbly serving the Chinese people.

Xi's pet slogan also made it into the final applause line of Premier Li Keqiang's annual address to the national legislature on Thursday, in which he told delegates that achieving the year's goals would help realize "the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

State broadcaster CCTV's nightly coverage of Xi's events include meetings with visiting dignitaries no matter how obscure. His visits to other cities and rural areas, meanwhile, are packaged in a manner reminiscent of European propaganda of the 1930s.

Xi's hosting of President Barack Obama and other world leaders at last year's meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Beijing was a particular showcase of his glitzy, personality-driven diplomacy. On the evening before the summit, CCTV ran hours of coverage of Xi greeting visiting heads of state at an elaborate banquet, joined by glamorous wife Peng Liyuan, a former diva with a military song and dance troupe, who often accompanies him on high-profile visits abroad.

A major military parade planned for the 70th anniversary of Japan's surrender at the end of World War II on Aug. 15 offers a further opportunity to place Xi front and center.

Predecessors Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao also presided at military parades, but only in the twilight of their terms in office, points out Willy Lam, a Chinese politics expert at Hong Kong's Chinese University. By associating himself so early with such powerful images, Xi is showing that he sees himself as China's third major leader after Mao and Deng, Lam said.

"The cult of personality around Xi is being built at full throttle, and Xi himself is responsible for this," Lam said. "It's getting to ridiculous levels."

At the same time, Xi has sought to burnish his credential as a man of the people, appearing unannounced at a Beijing dumpling stall, kicking around a football and carrying his own umbrella. Such poses shouldn't be confused with candor or accessibility, however: Xi almost never speaks to journalists and his personal life remains largely off-limits to the media.

And unlike Mao, Xi shows no sign of directly appealing to the public to join him in any political campaigns—as with the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution era in which Mao appealed to the masses to help him purge China's establishment of reactionaries. On the contrary, Xi's administration has made it clear that the party—and only the party—must be in control, and has squashed any efforts of citizens to mobilize, even on behalf of priorities that the party has professed, such as fighting corruption among officials or improving education.

An early indication of Xi's rising stature was the publication last November of "Xi

Jinping: The Governance of China," a 500-page volume of his collected speeches, talks, interviews, pronouncements and correspondence, with photos of him with his family, meeting world leaders, and carrying out the duties of head of state and chief of the armed forces.

Chinese leaders regularly publish such tomes, but only well after they've left office.

A more recent volume tracks Xi's use of classical Chinese allusions in his public statements. Published by the party's flagship newspaper, the People's Daily, "Xi Jinping Uses the Classics" cites 135 examples on topics from law to self-cultivation, drawn mainly from works associated with the ancient sage Confucius, as well as Song-dynasty administrator and literary figure Su Dongpo.

Xi's image is also branching out into the arts. In February, 12,000 applicants to the Beijing University of Technology's art program were required to sketch a portrait of the leader in pencil and charcoal as part of their entrance exam.

No matter to what comfort level Xi consolidates his power, experts see little chance he'll use his clout to implement democratic reforms that might challenge the party's predominance.

"Xi is actively trying to rein in precisely those elements of Chinese socio-political life—intellectual pluralism, popular participation, institutional checks and balances—that most of us would see as necessary for generating a more open, participatory political system," Boston University China expert Joseph Fewsmith said.



# Good Housekeeping

## Five tips to avoid home-design arguments

By STEPHANIE SNAY  
ANGIE'S LIST

Sharing your life with someone is a beautiful thing, but that doesn't always mean you share the same design and style preferences when it comes to your home. Whether you've lived together for one year or 20, use this advice from highly rated interior designers to stop the fights that have kept you from painting the walls or tiling the floors.

### 1 Start with a design plan.

Jodi Schavone, owner of Decor Coach in Apex, N.C., says to make a list of how the room has to function for each person before embarking on a design project. This will help couples and families prioritize and understand why one idea might be better than another.

Think realistically about how you'll use the space, along with whether you have a big family or like to entertain. Look through pictures online or in magazines, and talk openly about your likes and dislikes.



Interior designers say color arguments are easy to fix.

STEVE C. MITCHELL/ANGIE'S LIST/TNS

### 2 Listen to each other.

Communicate openly, and don't forget to listen. Interior designers say the majority of their job comes down to

listening to clients. Sometimes your spouse or partner might just want his or her ideas heard. Discussing concerns helps to avoid conflict, and will help you determine what he or she likes

about a particular color, pattern or piece of furniture.

### 3 Blend your design styles.

"A home is like a

marriage," Schavone says. "It won't work if it's one-sided." Not everything has to match. There are ways to mix style preferences, according to Schavone. This could be

as easy as using one person's color choices with the other person's fabric selection. You want your new space to reflect both of you.

### 4 Give and take to keep the peace.

There are usually places in the home where each person can have it their way, says Kathy Tufts, owner of Beyond Design in Clifton, Va. For example, choose neutral themes and colors for your common area, but allow some creativity in personal offices, bedrooms or hobby rooms. You'll have to compromise many times throughout your life. This is good practice.

### 5 Hire an interior designer.

Bringing in reinforcements often helps you see eye to eye, but could cost you between \$100 and \$200 for an initial one-hour consultation. "A big part of my job is being a marriage counselor or peace mediator," Tufts says.

Schavone agrees. "In listening to my clients, I detail what's most important," she says. "If I address the important parts of their ideas, they can usually give a little."

## Why should you care about the skilled trade shortage?

By ANGIE HICKS  
ANGIE'S LIST

Statistics show, and anecdotal evidence from service companies confirms, that we're experiencing a shortage of skilled trade workers. And with fewer workers entering the workforce than are leaving, due to Baby Boomer-era retirements and other factors, the problem is likely to worsen.

My team recently researched a report that reveals what the shortage of skilled electricians means for consumers. Last year we examined the issue involving skilled trades as a whole, and found that service companies were having trouble hiring qualified workers.

The end result for consumers? Longer waits and higher prices for quality work by qualified plumbers, electricians, carpenters and other skilled tradesfolk.

This may seem like a problem none of us can solve. But I believe we can do more than we might initially assume.

First of all, let's agree not to take the trades for granted. Some observers and service company owners believe a general devaluing of skilled labor—a societal stigma, even—is one reason for the shortage.

Look around where you live. Do vocational education oppor-

tunities exist? Is that an issue you might get involved in? Do you have a skill set you could pass on to the next generation?

Perhaps you can encourage a young person, or someone making a career change, to consider the trades. Don't assume that working with one's hands pays less, or is less satisfying, than other work. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, electricians can expect a median

pay of \$49,840 per year—43 percent higher than the national median across all jobs—with only a high school diploma required to become an apprentice.

A homeowner told us that she's willing to spend more for higher quality work by a provider who pays extra to keep good employees. "It's worth paying to have someone who knows what they're doing, and can do it right the first time. That saves you time, saves you money," she said. "It saves your sanity."

## COMFORT FOOD

### Irish Skillet

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES  
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

I've been proud of my Irish heritage ever since I was young enough to wear shamrocks and green clothing on St. Patrick's Day. Erin Go Bragh!

- 1/3 cup water
- 3 cups thinly sliced raw potatoes
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
- 3 cups chopped cabbage
- 1 1/2 cups shredded carrots
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley flakes
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 (2.5-ounce) packages lean corned beef, shredded

1. Put water in bottom of a 10-inch skillet. Arrange sliced potatoes in water. Layer onion, cabbage, carrots, parsley flakes and black pepper over potatoes. Top with corned beef.

2. Cover and simmer over medium heat for 20 minutes, or until potatoes and vegetables are tender. Mix well before serving. Makes 6 (1 cup) servings.

■ Each serving equals: 142 calories, 2g fat, 10g protein, 21g carb., 497mg sodium, 4g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Meat, 1 Vegetable.

## THIS IS A HAMMER

### Sunlight can zap leather furniture

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA  
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

**Q: My sister-in-law said that my new leather sofa is going to be ruined because it's in a room that's too sunny. I've never heard of such a thing. What do you say?—Chad B., Denver**

**A:** She's right—sunlight can damage leather. The sun's ultraviolet rays have a bleaching effect on leather—drying it out and causing the color to fade and cracks to appear in the surface. That goes for wood furniture, too. Even faux leather, cloth and other furniture materials are at risk from excessive sunlight.

At the same time, there's nothing better than lounging on the sofa on a warm day with the sun streaming in. Having a

house with a lot of natural sunlight in the main living areas also is nice, but creates a problem for keeping furniture looking good.

It's not hopeless, though, even if your sister-in-law's advice seemed a bit alarmist. There are a number of things you can do to protect your sofa from sunlight.

First, if you bought your sofa at a large furniture store you may have been offered UV protection as an extra feature. Or, the UV protection could have been added to the leather by the manufacturer. If you're not sure, check your purchase receipt, or contact the store or the manufacturer to find out.

If it wasn't included by the store or manufacturer, you can treat the leather with a condi-

tioner that includes UV protection. Again, check first with the manufacturer (you can almost always find information on its website) to see if any leather conditioners should be avoided for your specific model sofa.

Even with a UV protectant on the leather, you still need to limit the sunlight that actually reaches the surface. It's fine to let the sun stream in while you're using the room that the sofa is in. You can place a throw or afghan over the parts of the sofa that are hit directly by sunlight. But when you're not using the room, close the curtains on windows through which the sun is streaming directly. This not only keeps out light, it helps maintain the temperature of the room—another factor that affects the look and lifespan of



your furniture.

**TIP:** Spilled water on your leather sofa? Blot it up immediately and let the area dry away

from direct sunlight.

Send your home tips and questions to ask@thisisahammer.com.



## Life & Style

# World's tallest observation wheel falls short on riders



a day, which might earn it as much as \$60 million annually, according to a financial filing from 2013.

The company arrived at those numbers in part by comparing its ride to 2010 figures for other observation attractions. The London Eye got 3.9 million visitors; the Empire State Building had 3.5 million; and 700,000 visitors went to the top of the Stratosphere in Vegas.

Shaukat said the High Roller was impacted when the

company decided to overhaul the newly re-branded Linq hotel-casino next door, putting some 1,200 rooms out of service and cutting down on possible riders.

Marketing the ride has also been a challenge for the company that has traditionally focused on casinos, hotels and other types of entertainment. It assumed the High Roller would be most popular when hotels on the Strip were the fullest, but that hasn't been the case.

The main riders so far have been leisure tourists, families and locals—not casino-goers or convention attendees.

The week between Christ-

mas and New Year's Eve—generally a slow one for Las Vegas—was a winner for the ride, he said.

"The wheel was on fire because it was exactly the right type of occupancy," Shaukat said.

Reviews on Yelp.com and elsewhere have been largely positive but there's a catch: They say it's worth doing once. More than once? Not so much, or at least not without a coupon.

Shaukat said changes are in the works to keep the experience fresh. He reminded would-be riders that a trip at night has a different view than during the light of day.

AP  
In this March 31, 2014 file photo, the Las Vegas High Roller at The LINQ begins to operate in Las Vegas.

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—The world's tallest observation wheel hasn't quite reached the elevated expectations of its owner.

Caesars Entertainment officials have said the High Roller—its towering Las Vegas Strip attraction that stands 550 feet tall—was just shy of 5,000 daily riders in the past three months, up 10 percent compared to the prior quarter.

That's at least 3,000 riders shy of company expectations before the ride opened nearly a year ago though.

The ride posted the shortfall despite deep discounts for locals on the regular \$29.95 to \$59.95 ticket prices, Groupon

deals and airline travel package discounts.

The attraction isn't hard to miss as it towers behind the Las Vegas Strip, which sees 41 million visitors a year.

So how does Caesars Entertainment get already overstimulated visitors to Vegas to come on board?

Offering them drinks from an open bar during the 30-minute ride has helped. Riders booking the "Happy Half Hour" package have accounted for one of four riders, said Tariq Shaukat, the company's chief commercial officer.

The wheel is the first of a few observation wheels proposed for the Strip. It opened

last year as part of a \$550 million pedestrian promenade sandwiched between the Flamingo hotel and casino and the former Imperial Palace casino-hotel, now called the Linq.

Caesars Entertainment hasn't provided an individual cost to build and operate the wheel.

No one expected the ride to be a constant sell-out. If the High Roller packed every last one of its orb-shaped cabins for each of its 29 daily revolutions, though, it could accommodate a total of 32,480 people.

The company had its sights set on 8,000 to 11,000 visitors

## Banned Indian rape doc debuts in US

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A rape documentary banned from airing in India received its U.S. premiere at a star-studded event on Monday that included actresses Meryl Streep and Freida Pinto.

The screening of "India's Daughter" at Baruch College began with a vigil as the Oscar-winner Streep lit about a dozen candles honoring the medical student who died after being gang-raped on a bus in 2012. Organizers said about 650 people attended the event.

"Tonight we light these candles to honor the value and the work of Jyoti Singh's short, promising life," Streep said. "She was India's daughter. Tonight she's our daughter too."

The woman was attacked when she and a male companion boarded a private bus in Delhi. The documentary details a brutal account of how six men beat her friend and then gang-raped her in the bus before tossing her onto the street. She was found naked on the side of the

road and later died of her injuries. Four men were convicted and sentenced to death for the rape and murder.

The victim's parents have publicly named their daughter and have said they want the world to know about her plight.

"Ultimately, this is a film that needs to go out," said Pinto, who does not appear in the film. "This is not a shame-India documentary."

The film's U.S. premiere follows a week of controversy in India.

The uproar focuses on comments made by one of the convicted rapists interviewed for the film. He blamed the victim for taking a bus late in the evening.

"A decent girl won't roam around at 9 o'clock at night. ... Housework and housekeeping is for girls, not roaming in discos and bars at night doing wrong things, wearing wrong clothes," he said.

The documentary by British filmmaker Leslee Udwin,

herself a rape victim, was to have aired on an Indian television station on Sunday, International Women's Day, but a court order halted the broadcast. It was done in the interest of maintaining public order, according to Indian authorities. Instead, the station showed a blank screen.

"India's Daughter" first was screened in Britain on a British Broadcasting Corporation channel last week. Indian viewers cannot see it on the BBC website, but it can be seen on YouTube.

"This film in no way is propagating violence in order to solve the problem. In fact, what we're saying is let's do this in the most civilized possible way ever," Pinto told The Associated Press before the film's screening.

"This is not just an India problem; this is a problem that inflicts almost every country in the world," Pinto said. "There's not a single country in 2015 that is free of sexual violence against women."

### *In Humble Gratitude*



We, the family of the late

## †Rufina Celis Delos Santos Atalig

wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you have showed us during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comforting words, and unending support to include other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and with time may our pain lessen as memories gently turn tears to smiles. We would like to acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us, your kindness has touched us all and we will forever remember you.

To our techa for the rosary Ms. Marcy Cepeda, members of the San Vicente Parish; Rev. Father Jason Granado, Rev. Father Ike Ayuyu and countless others un sinceru yan dangkulu na si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Masen magof ham para in ekstende un sinceru yan dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase pot I tinayuyot yan finatton-miyu ginen I diuranen I piniten mami. In sen agradesi todus hamyu yan talu un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase ginen I familian I difunta as

†Rufina Celis Delos Santos Atalig

April 6th, 1947 – February 20th, 2015



# Costume designer dresses 'Cinderella' for success

By RICK BENTLEY  
THE FRESNO BEE

**LOS ANGELES**—The Fairy Godmother gets all the credit for turning Cinderella into the magically dressed belle of the ball in the new live action film, but it's actually Sandy Powell who deserves the recognition. The three-time Oscar winner designed all of the clothing, from the hypnotic blue ball gown to the shimmering epaulets on the Prince's uniform.

Powell's role is to help bring the story to life; in "Cinderella" that meant a major part of the story was told with the costumes that the mistreated step-daughter wears.

Cinderella only wears four costumes in the film, but each is as distinct as the next. Nothing compares to her blue ball gown, which is featured in almost every advertisement for the movie.

Powell blended a variety of hand-painted layers of fabric in different hues to create the blue color.

"The dress is made up of six layers of very fine fabric. The top level is a very expensive silk, while the others are a polyester. But the material is so light if you throw a piece of it up in the air, it just floats down really slowly," Powell says.

Each layer is hand-painted a different shade of blue, green, lavender, lilac and white. Powell wanted the dress to have the soft hues associated with water color paintings.

The most important thing about the dress was the movement. Powell knew the dress would look wonderful when actress Lily James twirled it around the ballroom floor. She was more interested in the way it would look when Cinderella makes her mad sprint to the carriage as the clock strikes midnight.

"I wanted it to float behind her and around her and have a life all of its own," Powell says.

Creating the look was time consuming: One ball gown took 20 people a total of 500 hours to complete.

## TIGHT FIT

For James, wearing Cinderella's gown also meant putting on a corset.

Powell is very particular



JONATHAN OLLEY/DISNEY/TNS  
Lily James is Cinderella in Disney's live-action feature inspired by the classic fairy tale, "Cinderella."

when creating designs that the under garments are as close to authentic as possible.

"I want to dispel the myth that corsets are uncomfortable," Powell says. "Corsets are uncomfortable if they are made badly or if they don't fit right. If they are made to fit properly, your squeezey bits—like your waist—get pulled in properly and it shouldn't push on your rib cage. All that it does is that it makes you aware of your posture."

It took about 20 minutes to get James into the costume, including lacing up the corset.

The corset didn't hurt James, but there was a side effect Powell hadn't anticipated. Richard Madden, who plays the Prince,

and his publisher said the latest will feature "corrupt newspapers," "imaginary histories" and the "cadaver of Mussolini's double."

The 83-year-old Eco attained worldwide fame decades ago with "The Name of the Rose." His other books include "Foucault's Pendulum" and "The Prague Cemetery."

## New Umberto Eco novel to be released in US in November

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Umberto Eco's "Numero Zero," a best-seller in the novelist's native Italy, will come out in the U.S. this fall.

On Monday, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt announced a Nov. 3 release date for Eco's story of a ghostwriter in Milan caught up in an underworld of crime and conspiracy. Eco is known for his complex plots,

## Actress responds to 'Cinderella' critics

By AMY KAUFMAN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

With their slender waists, flowing manes and rosy cheeks, Disney princesses have long conformed to stereotypical ideals of beauty. But when promotional material for Walt Disney Pictures' live-action version of "Cinderella" dropped in February, many began to question whether the studio had gone too far to make the fairytale princess seem perfect.

A trailer for the film, which opens Friday featuring star Lily James in Cinderella's baby blue ballgown was roundly criticized online, with many outlets pondering whether Disney had digitally altered the actress' waist to make it appear smaller.

noticed during dance scenes with Cinderella that if James ate anything while in the corset she would have some pain. They would have to stop so it could be loosened.

## GLASS SLIPPERS

The long ball gown served another purpose, too.

James was able to wear com-

But in a recent interview with *The Times* James denied that any CGI trickery had occurred. She said her costume's corset and voluminous skirt created an illusion, and she does not feel she is promoting an unhealthy body image.

"I naturally have a really small waist," said James, 25. "The skirt's big and the corset pulls me in, and that's the point. That's the shape [costume designer] Sandy Powell created."

Perhaps it was because she's been bombarded with the question a lot lately—the film premiered with a lavish royal ball and dozens of reporters on Hollywood Boulevard last Sunday—but James seemed dismayed when asked to discuss the topic the next day.

fortable running shoes because the gown covered her feet completely. She never wore the glass slippers that prove so important to the tale.

Powell designed the slippers based on an 1890s shoe she saw in a museum. The 5-inch heels gave the shoes a modern look that was still suitable for the fairytale. She had casts made of

"I think it's all very hypocritical, and they contradict themselves, and they're drawing more attention to it. I think all that stuff's so negative, and you've got to let it wash over your head," she said, struggling to find her words.

She went on to recall the first time she put on the ballgown—her hair dripping with Swarovski crystals, butterflies sewn onto her shoulders—and how special she felt. When she saw her reflection in the mirror, she said, she couldn't "help but gasp. It felt like a suit of armor."

"I think it's a beautiful gown with a beautiful shape," she said. "I love the curves. I think it's very old and 40s, the way it goes in and out. It's what made me feel like I could be a princess."

the shoes, which were sent to a company that created the slippers out of cut crystal.

The shoe is made up of three pieces of crystal fastened together. The shoe was only used as a prop. Scenes that show the slippers were added via computers after the filming was completed.

When asked about the cut

crystal shoes, James smiles and says they didn't fit her feet. She immediately realizes that she's ruined the fairytale ending and adds, the shoe wouldn't fit anyone's foot.

## COLOR SCHEMES

Powell spent a year working on the movie's costumes.

The process started with buying a variety of fabrics that she cut into small pieces and placed together to see how the colors compliment each other. She opted to go with a 19th century look, especially when designing the military look for the Prince.

"This is a very attractive period for men compared to 18th century, which is more flamboyant and flowery. This is quite masculine and elegant," Powell says. "I did make the trousers a little tighter than they would be."

Powell's design knowledge comes from years of experience. The London native first worked on the TV movie "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Since then she's designed costumes for both modern ("The Crying Game") and period ("Shakespeare in Love") stories and has worked on "The Wolf of Wall Street," "The Tempest," "The Young Victoria" and "Mrs. Henderson Presents."

She says period costumes are far easier since everyone has an opinion about the way modern clothes should look. Period films mean Powell has to create every item of clothing to find the right look.

## WAITING IN THE WINGS

Most of her work for "Cinderella" went as Powell planned—except for a small issue with the Fairy Godmother design. Helena Bonham Carter would only play the role if the character had wings.

Bonham Carter had to put up with a lot for the costume to work. Her dress is filled with lights and batteries to make her shine. That's why Powell was finally willing to add a small pair of wings to her look.

Director Kenneth Branagh says Bonham Carter joked that every day there was a man to turn her on.

Powell also created the costumes that Cate Blanchett slinks around in as the scheming stepmother. She went with a lot of greens.

"I like green and it suits her," Powell says. "She does wear other colors, but they're all kind of cool gem colors. She also wears a lot of black. I didn't want her all in black but a mix of black and strong colors that would work with that."

Creating costumes is a long and complicated process. Powell's advice to those who want to follow a similar career: Work hard, never give up and "follow your dreams."

And as Cinderella can tell you, "a dream is a wish your heart makes."



# Jay Leno makes comeback in Israel for award show

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Jay Leno is making a comeback—in Israel.

The late-night legend says he will return to Israel in June to host the award ceremony for the second annual “Genesis Prize.” Leno also hosted the inaugural ceremony last year for what is billed as “the Jewish Nobel Prize.” The \$1 million prize is being awarded to Oscar-winning actor Michael Douglas in recognition of his “passion” for his Jewish heritage and Israel.

Leno said he was thrilled to be invited back, comparing the warm welcome he received last year to a raucous Italian wedding.

“People seem to be genuinely happy to see you,” he told The Associated Press. “There you kind of get swarmed. Peo-



In this May 21, 2014 file photo, American comedian Jay Leno pauses during an interview with The Associated Press in Jerusalem. AP

## MTV aims for record-setting week

**NEW YORK (AP)**—MTV is hoping this week is one for the books—the book of world records.

The network is hosting a series of events designed to set some standards, mostly for goofy fun. It begins Monday at 11 p.m. with a 24-hour Beyonce dance marathon outside of MTV’s New York headquarters. In the attempt to claim the Guinness World Record for longest dance relay marathon, dancers will get a nonstop Be-

yonce soundtrack.

On Wednesday, MTV is asking viewers and their cats to submit videos in an attempt to set a mark for most “meows” in a minute. The network will challenge its audience members to break some of their own personal records Thursday, and post evidence online with the hashtag #EpicWin.

MTV will also ask viewers to express their wishes for the world in 2025, and will print out

as many as possible to be buried in a time capsule for a decade.

Besides having fun, MTV is looking to tap into the attitudes of its viewers as expressed in a recent poll, said Stephen Friedman, network president.

“Our audience is made up of dreamers, believers and they love nothing more than to do something bigger and better than it has ever been done before,” he said.

## Bill Cosby releases brief video touting comedy concert

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Bill Cosby has a new video message out.

In the video released Monday, he doesn’t address assault allegations made against him, but instead promotes his upcoming Saturday show in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Cosby is seated in an easy chair, dressed in fuchsia-colored pajamas, as he speaks into a phone in the 10-second spot.

“You know I’ll be hilarious,” he says. “Can’t wait.”

A note released along with the video reads, “Dear fans, I hope you enjoy my wonderful video message that’s filled with laughter... Hey, hey, hey, I’m far from finished.”

His reference to “far from finished” invokes the title of his ongoing comedy tour that’s seen more than a dozen shows canceled.

Since November, more than 20 women have leveled various assault accusations against Cosby. He has not been charged with a crime and he has denied some of the allegations through his attorneys.

Two of Bill Cosby’s upcoming shows have been canceled, but his promoter says three other dates this month remain on the comedian’s schedule.

Cosby’s shows in Warren, Ohio, and Lexington, Kentucky, will not be held. Promoter Carlos

Larraz said in an email Monday that he, Cosby and the venues mutually agreed to the cancellations. Four of Cosby’s shows last month also were canceled.

Larraz said upcoming shows in Wheeling and Charleston, West Virginia, and Baltimore remain on Cosby’s schedule.

Cosby has become a target of criticism and canceled shows as the number of women who have accused the 77-year-old comedian of drugging and sexually assaulting them has grown. He’s also being sued for defamation by three women and another woman has filed a civil suit against him, alleging he molested her when she was 15 years old.

ple run over, and the grandmas pinch your cheeks. So that was kind of fun.”

He said he felt that people seemed especially appreciative of his decision to visit at a time when entertainers are under pressure to boycott Israel over its policies toward the Palestinians. “Israelis are thrilled when you actually show up,” he said.

Leno, who is not Jewish, described himself as a big supporter of Israel, and said he disagreed with critics who portray the country as an aggressor.

“It seems like they (Israel) have the worst PR in the world,” he said. “I don’t understand how Israel is the bad guy here. It doesn’t make any sense to me.”

The Genesis Prize Foundation said the June 18 ceremony will include a tribute to Douglas, a celebration of the contribu-

tion of Jews to Hollywood and Broadway and a segment on diversity and tolerance. Douglas, whose father, actor Kirk Douglas, is Jewish, has said he will donate his prize money to projects that promote inclusiveness in the Jewish community.

“Michael Douglas has chosen to invest the prize award into initiatives which will resonate with Jews like himself—those who come from parents of mixed heritage who wish to be part of the Jewish community,” said Stan Polovets, co-founder and chairman of the foundation.

Leno said he is already gathering material to make fun of Douglas, a longtime acquaintance, as well as the country’s politicians. Hundreds of VIPs, including the prime minister, are expected to attend.

“After 22 years of hearing Jay poke fun of my movies on ‘The

Tonight Show,’ it’ll be a nice change to be there when he does it in person,” Douglas said in a statement released by the foundation.

One person who does not have to worry is Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s wife, Sara. Often portrayed as petty and demanding by Israeli comedians, Mrs. Netanyahu will be off limits, Leno said.

“I tend to use the mafia model,” he said. “You don’t go after the wives and children.”

The Genesis Prize was founded by the prime minister’s office, the Jewish Agency and the Genesis Philanthropy Group, a nonprofit organization that promotes Jewish education for Russian-speaking Jews worldwide. Last year’s recipient was Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire philanthropist and former mayor of New York.

## Jeong says ‘Hangover’ role inspired by wife

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Actor Ken Jeong says that much of the inspiration for his memorably angry Mr. Chow character in “The Hangover” movie was a reaction to his wife’s fight against breast cancer at the time.

His small role in the 2009 comedy, which included leaping naked out of a car trunk to attack someone, was so wildly over-the-top that he won an MTV Movie Award for it.

Even after earning the role, however, he wasn’t going to take it. He explained in a short film to accompany the upcoming PBS documentary, “Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies,” that he was caring for his wife, Tran Ho, and their 1-year-old twins as she was undergoing chemotherapy.

“Tran encouraged me to do

it,” Jeong said in an interview. “She thought I was suffering from caregiver burnout.”

He channeled his rage at his wife’s plight into the character, he said. One monologue that wound up being cut from the film but used as a DVD outtake turned into a pure rant that Jeong sees now he was doing to unburden himself.

Jeong, who is Korean, slipped in some dialogue in Vietnamese purely as an inside joke for his wife, who is Vietnamese.

He accepted his MTV award with an emotional speech just after the couple learned that she was cancer-free for two years. Before he could talk about it to the media following the show, he slipped into an alley behind the theater and broke down crying.

Shortly after that, the Stand Up to Cancer organization asked him to do some volunteer work, and that included the online film that is being used to promote the PBS project, a film by Barak Goodman and Ken Burns that brings to life the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Siddhartha Mukherjee. The three-part film airs on PBS March 30, 31 and April 1.

Tran Ho has now been cancer-free for six years.

“She’s just a pillar of strength,” Jeong said. “She’s my biggest inspiration because she handled it with such grace and strength and class. Even if I wasn’t married to her, I’d be in awe of her.”

The video is being posted Monday on the site [www.cancerfilms.org](http://www.cancerfilms.org).

## Madonna, Rihanna, Sam Smith to perform at iHeartRadio Awards

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Madonna, Rihanna and Sam Smith will perform at the second annual iHeartRadio Music Awards this month.

Iggy Azalea, Florida Georgia Line, Jason Aldean and Meghan Trainor will also hit the stage on March 29 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los An-

geles, iHeartMedia announced Monday. Jamie Foxx will host the awards show.

Azalea and Smith are the top nominees, with five nominations apiece. Azalea, Smith, Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande and Luke Bryan are nominated for artist of the year.

Swift will make an appearance, while other performers include Kelly Clarkson, Snoop Dogg, Jason Derulo, Jennifer Hudson, Alesso and Nate Ruess of fun.

The three-hour event will air live on NBC and iHeartMedia’s radio stations.

## Mother-in-law’s prayer is just one of many ‘keepers’

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently lost my address book in which I kept a copy of your “Keepers” booklet that I had sent away for a few years ago. I love the memorable poems and essays in it.

I’d like to replace the booklet if it is available. I read through it so many times and now feel lost without it. I have read your advice for many years. Any help or information would be greatly appreciated.

PENNY IN EUREKA, MO.

**DEAR PENNY:** I’m glad you enjoyed my “Keepers” booklet, and yes, it is available. It is light reading and contains poems and essays collected by my mother that have appeared in this column. So many readers requested reprints on humorous and inspirational items that hold special meaning for them that Mom decided to compile them into a booklet. To order a replacement for yours, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Allow me to share one of the gems that always makes me smile:

### A MOTHER-IN-LAW’S PRAYER

“O, Lord, help me to be glad when my son (or daughter) picks a mate. If he brings home a girl with two heads, let me love both of them equally. And when my son says, ‘Mom, I want to get married,’ forbid that I should blurt out, ‘How far along is she?’”

“And please, Lord, help me to get through the wedding preparations without a squabble with the ‘other side.’ And drive from my mind the belief that had my child waited awhile, he or she could have done better.

“Dear Lord, remind me daily that when I become a grandmother, my children don’t want advice on how to raise their children any more than I did when I was raising mine.

“If you will help me to do these things, perhaps my children will find me a joy to be around, and maybe I won’t have to write a ‘Dear Abby’ letter complaining about my children neglecting me. Amen.”

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I’d like to know why they still call ex-presidents “president”? For example, President Clinton or President Bush.

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



They clearly are not president any longer.

JUST WONDERING IN EUGENE, ORE.

**DEAR JUST WONDERING:** True. However, this is a courtesy, a gesture of respect extended to individuals for their public service. Included in this category are retired former presidents, senators, governors, mayors and high-ranking military officers.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

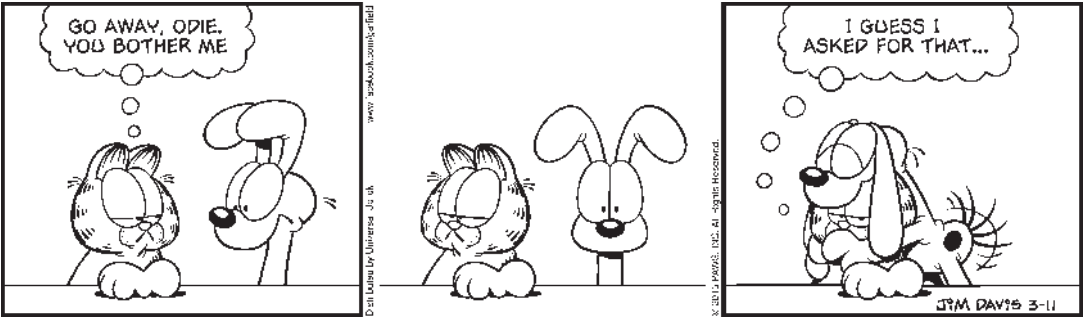
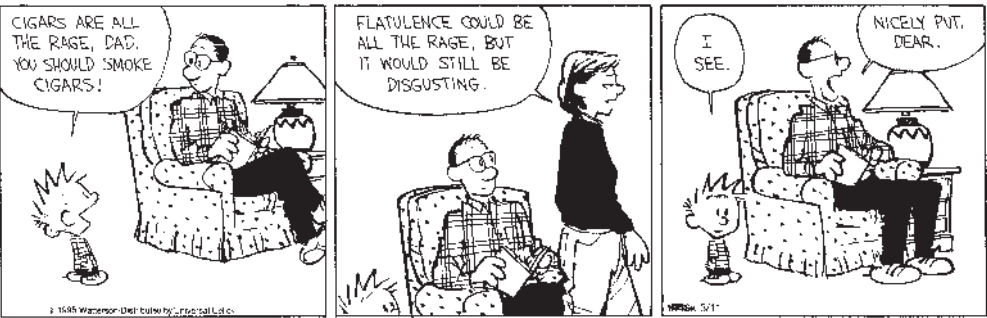


Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

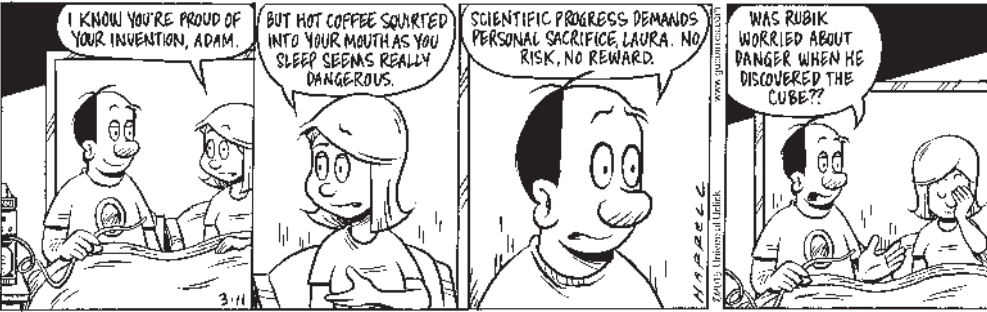
Garfield® By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Help of word in of veritas

4 Site of Satan Gilligan's

Apra 43 Approach theme

Harbor 44 Existed 3 Platter

8 Roosevelt 46 U-Haul 4 Hearty 27 Prepared

successor 40 competitor 5 Web 28 Roe

12 Omega 50 Tinsel- address, source

precursor 55 Water for short

13 Incite 56 Ontario 6 Time of 29 Present

14 Shrek, for (Fr.) your life?

15 Golfer 57 Flor- 7 Timid 30 Physical

Ernie 58 Pompous 8 Local, spoonful

16 Classic 59 Require to a 35 Fame, in

Cadillac 60 Verse 9 Past 38 Partook

18 "Unlead- 61 Allow 10 To and — at kegling

ed" brew 11 Danson 40 Like

20 Family 59 Require of "CSI" some

21 Jamie of 60 Verse 17 Gratuity humor

"M\*A\*S\*H" 61 Allow 19 A cont. 42 Aye

24 Turning 22 Libertine canceler

point 23 Typeface 45 Trade

28 Robin 1 Mimicked 47 Hand out

Hood's cards

forest 48 Facility

32 Green 49 Oxidation

land 50 Coop

33 Whammy dweller

34 Some 51 Raw

wrestling rock

matches 52 False- hood

36 Born 53 Plata's

37 Bedouin partner

39 "Gran 54 Insepa- rable

Torino" star

Yesterday's answer 3-11

Solution time: 24 mins.

URA - EGGS SOD

MAGI TEAK ERE

ADAMANTLY VAN

BRAIS JOELY

BIGOT MANN

ONUS PLACATED

SKI PLUCK EGO

SYNDROME LEAN

EYED BENDS

LEVEE SWIG

IRE MACADAMIA

FIR PLANT TORN

EKE TEND EWAN

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anton Yelchin, 26; Thora Birch, 33; Johnny Knoxville, 44; Terrence Howard, 46.

**Happy Birthday:** You will have plenty of interesting opportunities, but your emotions will cost you this year if you are too busy feeling sorry for yourself to recognize a good thing when it comes along. It will be important for you to take a chance either personally or professionally. Don't let anyone overshadow you. Contribute what you have to offer and don't look back. Your numbers are 4, 13, 20, 23, 32, 35, 42.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Greater opportunity surrounds you. Get involved in networking functions that can provide you with new contacts and a better position. Add to your resume and you will impress someone influential. A new contract will be offered. \*\*\*

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Do your best to get ahead. Take the initiative to go above and beyond the call of duty, and you will prove you have what it takes to be a leader in your field. Don't rely on others; do the work yourself. \*\*\*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Don't leave anything to chance or believe everything you hear. Focus on your ability to adapt to whatever change comes your way and outsmart anyone who challenges you. Romance will enhance your personal life and improve your living arrangements. \*\*\*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): You'll have to do things differently if you want to avoid being accused of copying someone. Focus on your own ideas and look for ways

to distinguish yourself from the crowd. Don't let personal matters stop you from taking care of your work responsibilities. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your emotions under control and focus on what you can do to make self-improvements while also adding to your skills. Someone will try to take money or possessions from you. Protect your assets physically and legally. \*\*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Mingle, network and communicate directly with the person you want to influence. You have plenty to contribute, so don't be afraid to share. Striving for perfection and putting additional detail into your work will pay off as long as you finish what you start. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take initiative and be the one to instigate anything you want to see happen. Don't let a difference of opinion ruin your day or spoil an important relationship. Love is highlighted and getting along will lead to greater happiness. \*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't get uptight; get moving. It's what you do that will count. Stop reworking the same old thing over and over. Make your move and make it count. You need to be creative, not a perfectionist who is never satisfied. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Expect the unexpected and prepare to deal with whatever comes your way. Hidden secrets may surface that could lead to a situation you have been avoiding. Put the past behind you and enjoy your life. Explore what excites you the most. \*\*\*

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Offer what you can, but don't expect instant results. Someone is likely to oppose you no matter what you do. Rely on your knowledge, expertise and practical way of handling situations, and you will come out on top. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let an emotional situation ruin a perfectly good day. Make personal changes that will enhance your outlook as well as update your appearance. Romance will help you stabilize your love life. An open attitude will be well-received. \*\*

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Get involved in a discussion with someone who has a different outlook or opinion than yours. Your creative and compassionate approach to what you do will attract the help and support you need to follow through with your plans. \*\*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are emotional, loving and entrepreneurial. You are interesting and enticing.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**SUDOKU**

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 |
| 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 |

**WONDERWORD** By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SUNLIGHT Solution: 8 letters

E B E Y S D N E B L I N D S R

M L R N G P B V R C T I M E I

A U E I O R I E O A E T T L D

N B R C G Z E L A U L A I A

A N S T T H O N L M W G A F W

T R E O C R T B E A H N E E N

I A M D R E O X R T I R E C O

N L N A L B P M S N E U A O I

G O Y E U O D S A H O B R S T

L S U R S A G T P G I A T M A

O F S U N R U S I K N M H I I

W T R C E R O D D G S E M C D

I E I E A M N H E A T U T E A

N N N L T I N F R A R E D I R

G L E A M I N G E T A M I L C

© 2015 Universal Jclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 3/11

Absorb, Atmosphere, Beam, Bend, Blinds, Blue, Bright, Burn, Burst, Climate, Color, Cosmic, Dancing, Dawn, Dusk, Earth, Electromagnetic, Emanating, Emit, Energy, Exposure, Fuel, Glare, Gleaming, Glowing, Golden, Green, Heat, Indigo, Infrared, Life, Light, Natural, Orange, Ozone, Radiation, Rays, Shimmer, Solar, Spectrum, Spill, Warm, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Crisp

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19 can be purchased online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com). (Contain 130 puzzles.)



# CLASSIFIED ADS

**WANTED TO BUY**

Need Quick Cash? I am looking for a house or lot to buy in Garapan. (670) 484-4071 or (671) 687-5863.

**House for Rent**  
Partly furnished 2 B/R,  
2 Bath, Washer /dryer hookup,  
with carport.  
House is fenced and  
located in Garapan.  
**Call 287-5161/288-2654 if interested.**

**CLICK IT OR TICKET  
DAY & NIGHT**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**1 – HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**  
High school diploma with (5) years minimum work related experience. Able to operate various heavy equipment including but not limited to Backhoe/Loader, Compactor, Tractor/Trailer Combo, Bulldozer, Hydraulic Crane and Grader. Crane operator must be able to pass required crane certification exam. Must understand load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload and have full knowledge of how to operate cranes, or other moving equipment for lifting, moving, or placing loads. Learn and follow safety regulations. Take actions to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling objects. Clean, lubricate and inspect mechanisms or accessories such as cables, pulleys, or grappling devices to prevent malfunctions or damage. Perform routine maintenance of equipment. Must have knowledge in troubleshooting and able to diagnose problem or malfunction and make repairs as necessary.  
  
Interested qualified applicants can submit their resume and latest police clearance via e-mail to [saipan@aicconstruction.com](mailto:saipan@aicconstruction.com) or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc., PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950.  
Closing date: March 11, 2015.

Francisco C. Cabrera  
dba Design Florist/Cabrera Funeral  
**Job Vacancy Announcement**  
**(1) Flower Arranger**

- Must have at least 3 years experience.
- Able to work flexible hours.

**(1) Funeral Service Assistant**

- Must have a driver's licence.
- Able to work flexible hours.
- Good personality.

  
All interested applicant must apply in person.  
Cabrera Center Bldg., Beach Road, Garapan

**Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School**  
Is requesting applicants for:  
**(2) Child Development Center/ Pre-School Teachers**

- Minimum Two years experience working with young children in a school setting
- Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree
- CPR / First Aid Certified
- Knowledge of child development and curriculum
- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures

  
Send resumes to:  
**Saipan SDA School Principal**  
P.O. Box 501063 Saipan MP 96950

**Warehouse for RENT**  
**REM GUALO RAI**  
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft  
\$0.85 per sq/ft. Negotiable  
**REM LOWERBASE**  
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft  
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL  
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

**Computer Repair**  
**Only \$10** Restore OS  
Student Laptop  
Call for more info.  
**233-5641**  
Open Monday-Saturday  
9:00am - 7:00pm  
[www.calvatron.net](http://www.calvatron.net)

WHATZIT Solution: Weak point

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

## CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

| ADS       | (PRINT)     | COMBO<br>(PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| • 3-Liner | <b>\$15</b> | <b>\$30</b>                 |
| • 5-Liner | <b>\$24</b> | <b>\$45</b>                 |

## ADVERTISING DEADLINE

### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

## CANCELLATION

### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

## REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

## CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

## ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

**G4S**  
**Job Vacancy Announcement**  
**(28) Security Officer**  
Submit applications, police clearance, and copy of certification at G4S Office located at Beach Road Ladera Building, Chalan Lau-lau. For more information call (670) 234-3238 or email at [trainingacademy@gu.g4s.com](mailto:trainingacademy@gu.g4s.com)  
[www.g4s.mp](http://www.g4s.mp)  
  
EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer and observes all federal employment opportunity regulations, practices and policies. Federal Law requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. Must be 18 years or older and must be able to speak, read and write English. Open to all qualified U.S. Workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). This job is open to all U.S. Veterans, Persons with Disabilities and Women In Non-traditional occupations that are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job.

**KARIDAT**  
**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Karidat has one vacant position for an  
**Executive Director**  
Interested individuals may obtain a Job Application Form at our main office in Chalan Kanoa. Deadline to submit an application will be on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Sorry, but no phone calls please.

**TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.**  
Immediate position available for  
**LIVE-IN CAREGIVER FOR THE U.S.**

- Round trip airfare
- Health care experience preferred but not required
- Must be able to prepare food items
- Salary negotiable based on experience

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- U.S. citizen or Green card
- Police Clearance
- Driver's license
- References
- Ability to speak English

Drop off your resume at the  
**Triple J Corporate Office,**  
**Ground Floor, Surfrider Resort & Beach Club**  
**Brigida St., Chalan Kanoa**  
May submit resume at the  
[corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com](mailto:corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com)  
We accept applications up to February 27, 2015  
**NO PHONE CALL PLEASE**  
**Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.**

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT**  
**Realty Management Services**  
**Fina Sisu Terraces**  
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **\$250/month.**  
2-BR, 1-BTH. **\$350-\$550/month.** Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.  
**Ocean View Terraces**  
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft  
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **\$600/month**  
**Sunset View Terraces**  
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft  
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **\$550/month**  
**Hilltop Condominium\***  
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft  
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **\$700/month**  
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft **\$500/month**  
**\*Wi-Fi and nighttime security excludud**  
**FEATURES:**

- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com)  
Call for an appointment  
235-6527/8.

**Kanoa Resort**  
**Saipan**  
**(2) GUEST SERVICES AGENT**  
Qualifications: High School diploma or GED certificate. Must have minimum of one or two years of training involving both on-the-job experience and informal training with experienced workers in providing quality customer and personal services. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and Chinese. Must be able to work a variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.  
  
Interested applicants may send their applications to [hr@kanoaresort.com](mailto:hr@kanoaresort.com). Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 12, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.  
  
**Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**  
  
**Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.**

**Kanoa Resort**  
**Saipan**  
**(9) COOK**  
**Qualifications:**  
High School graduate or equivalent with three (3) years work experience preferably in a hotel. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Ability to work a variable shcedule on occasion, including early morning, evenings and/or weekends.  
  
**(1) A/C REFRIGERATION MECHANIC / TECHNICIAN**  
**Qualifications:** Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) years of experience. Capable of reading schematic diagram, can work on commercial temperature control and air quality. Perform a wide array of duties, inspect, maintain and troubleshoot centralized A/C cooling tower. Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration and/or associate's degree. Must be able to work flexible hours including nights, weekends and holidays.  
  
Interested applicants may send their applications to [hr@kanoaresort.com](mailto:hr@kanoaresort.com). Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 11, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.  
  
**Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**  
  
**Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.**



# Hawks score season high in 130-105 victory over Kings



ATLANTA (AP)—Kyle Korver and DeMarre Carroll each scored 20 points as the Atlanta Hawks bounced back from a rare loss by becoming the first NBA team to 50 wins, scoring a season high in routing the Sacramento Kings 130-105 Monday night.

Resting three starters, the East-leading Hawks (50-13) were beaten by the lowly 76ers over the weekend to end a six-game winning streak. Korver didn't even make the trip to Philadelphia, the Hawks hoping the rest would help break him out of a shooting slump since the All-Star break.

Korver went 6 of 8 from 3-point range. The Hawks set a club record by going 20 of 36 beyond the arc, breaking the mark of 19 set against Dallas on Dec. 17, 1996.

The Hawks led 76-54 at the break—their most prolific half of the season. They finished with 42 assists, best in the NBA this season. Jeff Teague led the way with 13.

Rudy Gay scored 23 points as the Kings lost their fourth in a row.

## Pelicans 114, Bucks 103

In Milwaukee, Anthony Davis scored 43 points, tying a career high and helping New Orleans pull away to beat Milwaukee.

Eric Gordon added 16 and Tyreke Evans had 13 before leaving the game in the third quarter with an ankle injury. The Pelicans shot 59 percent for the game and 60 percent from 3-point range.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had a career-high 29 points for the Bucks, who have lost seven of nine. Michael Carter-Williams tallied 25, his highest-scoring game for Milwaukee since being acquired last month in a trade-deadline deal, and Khris Middleton scored 17.

Milwaukee took a 101-100 lead with 3:35 remaining on a runner by Antetokounmpo. Davis, who recorded his third career 40-point game, then scored eight consecutive points as New Orleans closed the game on a 14-2 run.

## Warriors 98, Suns 80

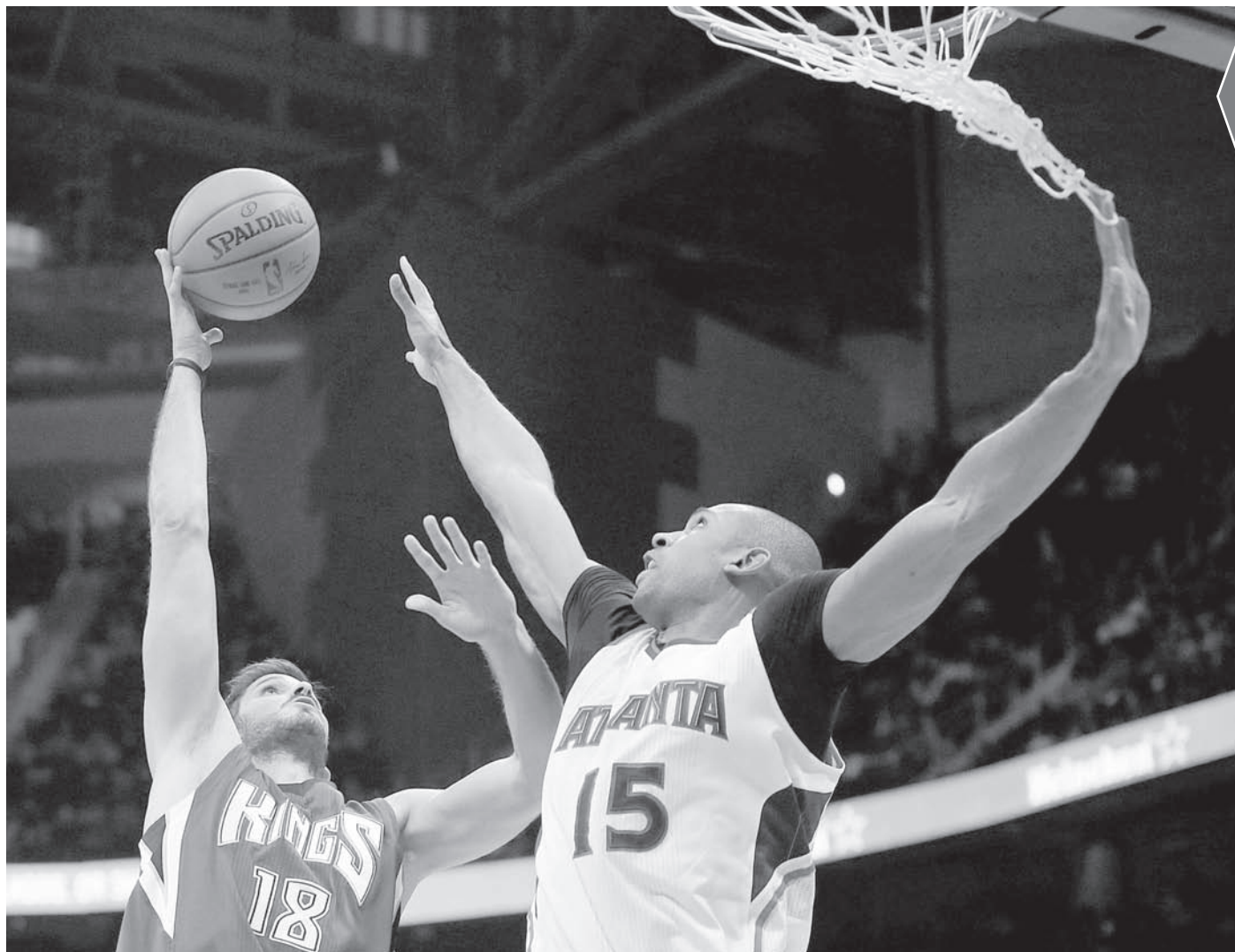
In Phoenix, Stephen Curry scored 25 of his 36 points in the second half and Golden State beat Phoenix for its 50th victory of the season.

Klay Thompson added 25 for the Warriors, who at 50-12 have the NBA's best record, a half-game better than Atlanta.

Curry made 7 of 13 3-pointers, 6 of 8 in the second half, in his 13th 30-point game of the season.

Eric Bledsoe scored 19 for Phoenix. Brandon Knight had 13 before leaving the game with a sprained left ankle in the second quarter.

The Warriors became the second NBA team to win 50 games



AP  
Sacramento Kings' Omri Casspi, left, of Israel, shoots against Atlanta Hawks' Al Horford in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 9, 2015, in Atlanta.

this season. Atlanta did it with a victory over Sacramento a few hours earlier.

## Grizzlies 101, Bulls 91

In Chicago, Marc Gasol scored 23 points to lead Memphis past his brother Pau and Chicago.

Gasol was 10 of 16 from the field for the Grizzlies, who moved to two games ahead of idle Houston for the Southwest Division lead.

Jeff Green had 19 and Zach Randolph added 16 for the Grizzlies, who held the Bulls to 43.8 percent shooting from the field and improved to 21-11 on the road.

Pau Gasol, Marc's older brother, had 13 points and 11 rebounds for his 43rd double-double of the season to match the career high he set during the 2010-11 season with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Marc Gasol started opposite his brother at last month's NBA All-Star Game.

## Wizards 95, Hornets 69

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Marcin Gortat scored 20 points and Washington rolled past Charlotte.

John Wall added 15 points and nine assists, Bradley Beal had 14 points and Kevin Seraphin scored 12 for the Wizards, who ended a nine-game road losing streak.

Mo Williams scored 19 points for the Hornets, who shot just 32.5 percent (25 of 77) and committed 16 turnovers to tie their lowest-scoring game this season and end a five-game winning streak.

Al Jefferson added 14 points and Lance Stephenson 12 for Charlotte, which led twice in the first 2½ minutes, the last at 9-8

on Williams' three-point play with 9:21 left.

## Clippers 89, Timberwolves 76

In Los Angeles, J.J. Redick scored 26 points, DeAndre Jordan had 20 points and 17 rebounds, and injury-depleted Los Angeles ended a two-game skid.

Austin Rivers scored 13

points as the Clippers, despite the absences of Blake Griffin and Jamal Crawford, bounced back one day after a road loss to NBA-leading Golden State.

Chris Paul also managed just two points and 15 assists while playing 29 minutes on a bruised knee.

Adreian Payne had 16 points and 15 rebounds while starting in place of Kevin Garnett for

the Timberwolves, who opened a four-game road trip with their fifth loss in six games.

Minnesota has lost 12 straight to the Clippers since February 2012.

## Celtics 100, Heat 90

In Miami, Isaiah Thomas scored 25 points in another strong game off the bench and Brandon Bass added 14 as Boston beat Miami.

## Miami's Bosh recovery continues, with eye on next season

MIAMI (AP)—Chris Bosh still has no idea how he was able to play through the pain for so long, or why he wasn't scared to learn that his health was in serious trouble.

All he knows is that the worst is over.

And right now, that's all that matters. Bosh was back around the Miami Heat Monday night for the first time in nearly a month, another step on his road to recovery and back to the NBA after being diagnosed with blood clots on a lung.

Bosh could be cleared to start regularly exercising later this month, and is scheduled to resume "full basketball activities" in September.

"All the love and energy has really, really allowed me to be back here," Bosh said. "Not under the circumstances I want to be, but beggars can't be choosers. Very happy to be here and I'm doing a lot better."

Bosh has no way of really knowing, but figures he played with the clot on his lung—a dangerous situation, to say the least.

"I'm imagining I did, yeah," Bosh said. "Some days were rough. Some weren't. ... I just

wanted to play ball."

Bosh spoke for about seven minutes in a pregame news conference, looking normal. He's not, though: His physical exertion is very limited right now, and he just recently started driving around the block.

"Do a little bit of walking every day, just trying to get better," Bosh said. "Just take time to reflect, sit outside and enjoy this beautiful weather and appreciate it."

It was a busy Monday for Bosh. Earlier, 35 Heat employees arrived via bus at his house and surprised him by dropping off 10,000 get-well cards. Bosh was in the driveway, basking in the sun and beaming as he held one of the many overstuffed boxes.

Bosh said there were discussions weeks ago about whether he would ever be able to play again, but that those conversations quickly ended.

"I knew I was going to play basketball again," Bosh said.

He was on the court Monday, meeting a soldier who was being honored pregame by the Heat and then briefly addressing the crowd.

"I want to thank each and every one of you for all the love,"

he said, urging fans to support Miami's push toward a playoff spot. Bosh lined up alongside his teammates for the national anthem. He then took a spot on the bench for the game, encouraging and chatting with teammates and coaches.

His last game with the Heat was Feb. 11, just before the start of the All-Star break. Bosh was dealing with pain in his side and back for some time (even seeking help from a chiropractor at one point), but went to All-Star weekend in New York anyway—teaming with Dominique Wilkins and Swin Cash to win the Shooting Stars competition at the league's midseason showcase for the third straight year.

He then went on vacation to Haiti for a few days. The pain intensified and eventually Bosh went to the hospital to get checked out.

Then came the news that scared so many, especially since the same issue—blood clots finding their way to a lung—caused former NBA player Jerome Kersey to die that same week.

Bosh, somehow, wasn't worried.

Luigi Datome scored 13 for the Celtics, and Kelly Olynyk finished with 10.

Dwyane Wade scored 34 points for the Heat, who got 14 from Michael Beasley and 12 from Mario Chalmers. The Heat got a pregame lift from the return of Chris Bosh to the team's bench for the first time since he was ruled out for the season last month because of blood clots on a lung.

But it wasn't enough to keep Miami's playoff hopes from taking another blow as the Heat missed a chance to climb into seventh in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

## Nuggets 106, Knicks 78

In Denver, Kenneth Faried had 19 points and 11 rebounds as Denver routed New York.

Wilson Chandler and Will Barton scored 17 points apiece for the Nuggets, who enjoyed their second-largest margin in a win this season.

The Knicks lost their fourth straight and fell to 12-50, the NBA's first 50-loss team this season. Alexey Shved had 19 points for New York.

The lead grew to as much as 34 in the fourth. It was the largest lead of the season for the Nuggets, who tied a season low with eight turnovers. They didn't have a turnover in the second or third quarter.

"I don't know why," Bosh said. "It just didn't come as a scary thing at the time."

After about a week in the hospital, Bosh went home and has been trying to remain patient since.

"He sends me texts during the game, things like 'Shoot the ball, 3'" Heat guard Dwyane Wade said. "He knows I don't see them until after. But it makes him feel better."

Wade and his wife, actress Gabrielle Union, visited with Bosh and his wife, Adrienne, after Saturday's Heat win over Sacramento game, catching up over red wine and conversation. Adrienne Bosh was the one who talked her husband into finally going to the hospital.

"She saves my life on a daily basis," Bosh said.

Wade said Bosh has been inspiring even in his absence.

The Heat are a banged-up team right now, with about half the roster dealing with legitimate injuries. Wade's one of them, and when his sore hip has acted up in recent days, he said he's talked his way through it in part by reminding himself that Bosh is going through something much more serious.



# Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel remains in rehab



**BEREA, Ohio (AP)**—Johnny Manziel's commitment to fixing his personal life has the Browns feeling positive about his future as a quarterback.

Browns coach Mike Pettine confirmed Monday that Manziel, whose disastrous rookie season in Cleveland was followed by him seeking help for an undisclosed issue, remains in a rehab treatment facility. Manziel entered a private facility in Ohio on Jan. 28, and Pettine said there is not a specific date for the 2012 Heisman Trophy winner to be released.

Pettine, appearing at the Cleveland Auto Show, was asked if he viewed Manziel's lengthier stay as a good sign.

"Sure," he said. "It's something that he was very resolute that needed to get done."

Pettine said the team has had some communication with Manziel, who spent most of the season as Brian Hoyer's backup before making two rather forgettable starts. Manziel led the Browns to just three points in six quarters as a starter and appeared overwhelmed by the speed of the pro game.

Pettine reiterated that the Browns are solely concerned about Manziel getting well.

"It's more important the personal stuff now, football is an afterthought," Pettine said, "so we're just giving him his privacy and do what he has to do."

Pettine believes that when Manziel returns, he will be a better player simply because the Browns have added Kevin O'Connell and John DeFilippo to their coaching staff. O'Connell, the team's new quarterbacks coach, worked with Manziel before the 2014 draft and DeFilippo, who replaces Kyle Shanahan as offensive coordinator, has worked extensively with young QBs.

"Well, I just think in hiring Kevin O'Connell, hiring John DeFilippo, and knowing what those guys bring to the



In this Dec. 2014, file photo, Cleveland Browns' Johnny Manziel (2) sits on the bench during the second half of an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers in Charlotte, N.C. <sup>AP</sup>

table from a quarterback standpoint that when Johnny is back, I'm very confident that he'll be better," Pettine said. "Just knowing how those guys coach that position and what they're going to ask of not just him but all the quarterbacks in the room."

As the Browns wait for Manziel, Pettine said he would have no problem with newly signed veteran quarterback Josh McCown as his starter next season. McCown went 1-10 as a starter in 2014 for Tampa Bay.

"I'd be comfortable, I would," Pettine said. "He's proven he can start in this league. I'm not going to stand here and announce that's the situation. We'll see what our roster looks like when we get to September. But here's a guy who has played quality minutes in this league and brings a lot to our organization on and off the field."

With teams set to sign free agents as of Tuesday at 4 p.m., Pettine did not reveal any of the Browns' plans in free agency other than to say the team

would be smart with its money.

"It's right player, right price," Pettine said.

The Browns believe they got both in wide receiver Brian Hartline, who agreed to terms on a two-year, \$6 million contract. Hartline was released last month after six seasons by Miami and now the Ohio native is coming home to help the Browns, who were desperate for a quality wide receiver after former All-Pro Josh Gordon was suspended by the NFL for one year.

The 28-year-old Hartline had consecutive 1,000-yard seasons in 2012 and 2013 before gaining just 474 last season on 39 catches.

Pettine said the team remains hopeful it can re-sign some of its unrestricted free agents, including versatile cornerback

Buster Skrine, who has drawn interest from several teams. Pettine would like to hang on to Skrine—if possible.

"Bus is a guy that really came on for us, and it's one of those things where he could go out and get blown away in the market," Pettine said. "We have parameters for where we are, you always set thresholds for players. We certainly feel that Bus is the right player, but for us it certainly also has to be the right price."

The Browns also tendered a second-round qualifying offer for Pro Bowl safety Tashaun Gipson. The team has discussed signing Gipson, who had six interceptions last season despite missing the final five games with a knee injury, to a long-term deal. But that hasn't worked out, and the team will risk exposing him on the open market.

## Texans release WR Andre Johnson

Andre Johnson was released by the Houston Texans, and quarterback Ryan Mallett agreed to return to the team on Monday.

A 12-year veteran, Johnson, the longest-tenured Texan, was a first-round draft pick in 2003, joining the expansion team in its second season.

The 33-year-old Johnson had 85 catches for 936 yards last season, but the Texans were beginning to see DeAndre Hopkins as their top receiving threat.

"After exhausting all options of a possible trade, we informed Andre Johnson that he would be released (Monday)," general manager Rick Smith said. "No player in the history of this franchise has represented the team, city and community in a more professional way. Andre is a Hall of Fame caliber player and we appreciate his years of service and contributions to our team."

Johnson is a seven-time Pro Bowler with seven 1,000-yard receiving seasons and has 1,012 receptions with 13,597 yards receiving in his career.

He led the NFL in yards receiving in 2008 and 2009. His career high came in 2012 when he had 1,598 yards receiving and the Texans reached the playoffs for the second time.

"Andre carried himself as a true professional and did everything that we asked him to do," coach Bill O'Brien

said. "Andre will go down as one of the best receivers to every play this game. We are thankful for what he has done for our organization and wish him well on his future playing career."

Johnson played on just four teams with winning records and went through two 2-14 seasons with the Texans. He also had more than his fair share of quarterback woes. It started with the struggles of David Carr, included Matt Schaub performing so poorly in 2013 that he was benched, and playing with four different signal callers last season alone.

But Johnson was also there for the best times of this young franchise, helping the Texans to back-to-back AFC South titles and trips to the playoffs in 2011 and 2012. He had 25 receptions for 358 yards in four career playoff games.

It looked like he might be gone last season after he wondered if Houston "was still the place for me" before skipping all of the team's offseason work. He returned in time for training camp and as late as December he said he wanted to spend his entire career in Houston.

"I don't want to play for nobody else ... I don't even think it would feel right," he said then.

But after the Texans told him recently they didn't see him as their top

receiver anymore, he'd had enough and asked to be released or traded.

The move is a blow for longtime Texans fans who have always seen Johnson as the face of the franchise, even with the emergence of star defensive end J.J. Watt. Johnson was sitting courtside at a Houston Rockets game last week when he was introduced and received a standing ovation from the sellout crowd as Whitney Houston's song "I Will Always Love You" played and he waved to the crowd.

Johnson is second among active players and 12th all-time in career yards receiving. His 64 career touchdown receptions are 10th among active players and his 80.5 yards receiving a game are fourth among active players.

He's fifth with 51 career 100-yard receiving games and holds an NFL record with 21 career games with at least 10 receptions and 100 or more yards receiving.

Houston also re-signed two of its free agents, cornerback Kareem Jackson and tackle Derek Newton.

Mallett has agreed to terms on a two-year contract with the Texans, another person familiar with the contract told the AP. The deal is worth \$7 million over two years, with \$1.75 million guaranteed. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not announced the contract. **(AP)**

## McCourty: Patriots safety says he's coming back

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)**—Safety Devin McCourty says he's returning to the New England Patriots for five more years.

Cornerback Darrelle Revis could be gone.

McCourty said that he's happy to stay with the Super Bowl champions, telling Patriots fans on Twitter on Monday: "Let's go win another Super Bowl...or 5."

In a telephone call to Comcast SportsNet New England on Sunday night, McCourty said he wanted to come back to the team that picked him in the first round of the 2010 draft. A handful of other teams showed interest, including Tennessee, where his twin brother Jason plays.

"I knew in my heart that I wanted to be back in New England, but I also knew the business side of football," the 27-year-old free agent told the station. "I had to do what I had to do. I'm back, but I'd be lying if I said there wasn't possibilities over the last few days that I was going to be somewhere else. But, happy it all worked out."

Also Monday, ESPN reported that the Patriots have decided not to pick

up Revis' \$20 million option, instead allowing him to become a free agent. A Patriots spokesman said he didn't anticipate any comment from the team on Monday.

McCourty's agent, Andy Simms, confirmed that his deal would pay \$47.5 million over five years, with \$28.5 million guaranteed.

"Being in New England for five years, there's no kind of mystery or question. I know we can win here," McCourty said in the TV interview. "We've already done it. That's where (the Patriots) came in first in that category. And, financially, they stepped up and hit all the numbers that I wanted."

Jason McCourty said on the Twitter account the brothers share: "Congrats to Dmac! Even though he turned down my offer to Nashville I guess we can still be bros just let me get some of that money."

Devin McCourty had 67 total tackles last season and added nine more in the postseason as the Patriots won their fourth Super Bowl since 2001.

NFL free agency officially begins on Tuesday.

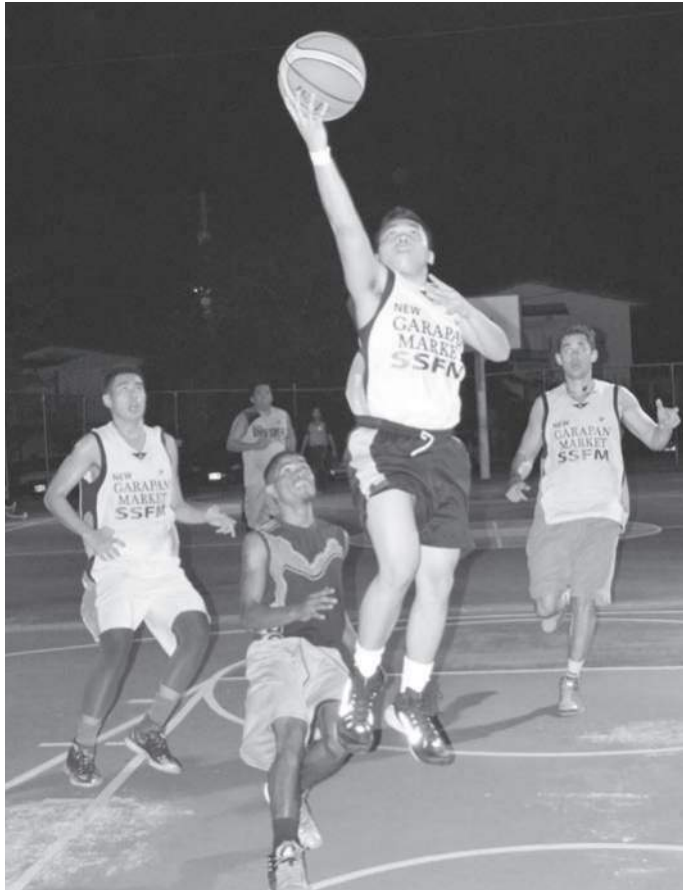


# SSFM/New Garapan Market takes solo lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

SSFM/New Garapan Market kept its perfect record and earned the solo lead in the 2015 DLX Invitational Basketball League following an 86-73 victory over Jake's Catering last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Djay Ong lifted SSFM/New Garapan Market in the battle of the two unbeaten teams in the eight-squad league, scoring a game-high 22 points. The Marianas High School stand-out hit baskets in succession late in the third to give SSFM/New Garapan Market the momentum and then anchored the team's strong start in the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SSFM/New Garapan Market's Sean Rabasto escapes for a fastbreak layup against Jake's Catering's Feric Aguon, while teammates Djay Ong, left, and J.P. Espinosa, right, stay in the play during the fourth quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

fourth to threaten a breakaway en route to their fifth win in as many games.

Jake's Catering, which routed Island Manpower last Saturday, 84-60, was 4-0 prior to meeting SSFM/New Garapan Market, which also booked its fourth win last weekend after a similar easy victory against Team Compound, 83-69.

SSFM/New Garapan Market made it five in a row with Ong leading a short 8-0 run in opening minutes of the fourth period, turning a shaky 2-point advantage to a double-digit spread, 69-59. Ong started the fourth with back-to-back baskets and hit another one after Sean Rabasto's breakaway layup. Ong found himself open for those short jumpers and undergoal stab, as SSFM/New Garapan Market moved the ball well and made extra passes.

Earlier in the third period, Ong also anchored a short rally, as he nailed three straight baskets in an 8-0 spree that allowed SSFM/New Garapan

Market to take a 57-50 lead. Jake's Catering, behind Manolo Manalo and Ron Gamboa's baskets, moved within 2 points at the end of the third canto as it held SSFM/New Garapan Market to a field goal and a free throw in the remaining two minutes of that quarter.

However, Jake's Catering played flat in the early goings of the fourth, while SSFM/New Garapan Market leaned on Ong and Rabasto to pad their lead to as much as 16. Ong scored 8 of the team's first 14 points, while Rabasto had 6. The SSFM/New Garapan Market guard also helped set-up Ong for those shots in the paint. Ong went on to drill 12 of his total points in the final canto.

With Ong and company improving to a 5-0 record, they boosted their chances for the outright semis berth. The Top 2 teams in the round-robin tournament will automatically move into the semis, while the No. 3 to 6 finishers will battle for the remaining two Final Four berths and the bottom two will be eliminated.

**SSFM 86** – Ong 22, Bisana 17, M. Espinosa 12, Velasco 12, Rabasto 10, J. Espinosa 9, Eleasar 2.

**Jake's Catering 73**– Manalo 15, Gamboa 14, Rivera 14, Capalad 12, Aguon 10, Dayrit 6, Montano 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-10, 32-39, 61-59, 86-73.



## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

| Atlantic Division |    |    |      |     |
|-------------------|----|----|------|-----|
|                   | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Toronto           | 38 | 25 | .603 | —   |
| Boston            | 26 | 36 | .419 | 11½ |
| Brooklyn          | 25 | 36 | .410 | 12  |
| Philadelphia      | 14 | 49 | .222 | 24  |
| New York          | 12 | 50 | .194 | 25½ |

#### Southeast Division

|            | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| x-Atlanta  | 50 | 13 | .794 | —   |
| Washington | 36 | 28 | .563 | 14½ |
| Charlotte  | 28 | 34 | .452 | 21½ |
| Miami      | 28 | 35 | .444 | 22  |
| Orlando    | 21 | 43 | .328 | 29½ |

#### Central Division

|           | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| Cleveland | 40 | 25 | .615 | —   |
| Chicago   | 39 | 26 | .600 | 1   |
| Milwaukee | 33 | 30 | .524 | 6   |
| Indiana   | 28 | 34 | .452 | 10½ |
| Detroit   | 23 | 39 | .371 | 15½ |

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

| Southwest Division |    |    |      |     |
|--------------------|----|----|------|-----|
|                    | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Memphis            | 45 | 18 | .714 | —   |
| Houston            | 43 | 20 | .683 | 2   |
| Dallas             | 41 | 24 | .631 | 5   |
| San Antonio        | 39 | 23 | .629 | 5½  |
| New Orleans        | 35 | 29 | .547 | 10½ |

#### Northwest Division

|               | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Portland      | 41 | 20 | .672 | —   |
| Oklahoma City | 35 | 28 | .556 | 7   |
| Utah          | 26 | 36 | .419 | 15½ |
| Denver        | 23 | 41 | .359 | 19½ |
| Minnesota     | 14 | 48 | .226 | 27½ |

| Pacific Division |    |    |      |     |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
|                  | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Golden State     | 50 | 12 | .806 | —   |
| L.A. Clippers    | 41 | 23 | .641 | 10  |
| Phoenix          | 33 | 32 | .508 | 18½ |
| Sacramento       | 21 | 41 | .339 | 29  |
| L.A. Lakers      | 16 | 46 | .258 | 34½ |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Lizama homers, Falcons rip Starz

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

A.J. Lizama belted his second home run this season to guide the Falcons to a 20-10 trouncing of the North Starz last Monday night in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

It was the Falcons' second straight win to improve to 5-2 while their victims, who also dropped a 16-10 decision to the same team last month, dropped to 1-7.

Lizama, known for his pitching as he is currently in second place on the ERA list with 1.38, hit another inside-the-park homer, the fourth this season, in the Falcons' four-run fourth inning.

It was the fifth overall round-tripper as teammate Ned Norita blasted the first outside-the-park dinger in the Falcons' 8-5 win over the defending champion and former leader GSM Brewers last week.

Consecutive errors by the Starz in the fourth inning gave the 2007 champions' lead off batter Lamar Iguel the chance to reach second base safely.

Lizama, who was hit by pitch in the first, then stepped on the plate and took E.J. Tenorio's pitch deep near the

fence at the left center field. He flied out to left field in the fifth and grounded out in the sixth to finish 2-for-4 with four runs and three RBIs.

Nunu Kapileo went 2-for-2 and the Falcons designated hitter drove in three runs. Iguel scored four times, had a double, and one RBI in 3-for-5 batting, while Peter Lieto had three runs and two RBIs going 2-for-6, and Goru Iskawa, 3-for-6, made one run.

Dave Jones tossed three innings in relief holding the Starz to two runs, one earned, on two hits while fanning three and walking two. Aaron Benavente pitched for five innings surrendering eight runs, three earned, with two strikeouts and two walks.

Ian Lizama led the Starz's offense going 2-for-5 with three runs and one RBI, while Ricardo Dela Cruz went 2-for-5 with one run and one RBI. Nicko Martin hit a two-RBI single in the second inning.

Tenorio lasted for only one inning and was replaced by Jon Tenorio after giving up seven runs, all earned, on three hits with two strikeouts and four walks.

Relief pitcher Tenorio, however, failed to stop the Falcons and was tagged with 13 runs, three earned, on 16 hits, striking out one and walking two batters.

## Win propels Wild Bill's to Thursday lead

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Nong Detdon went undefeated in all of his matches to lead Wild Bill's to a 10-5 decision over the Jokers Homeboyz in last week's games in the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

Detdon played two singles games then teamed up with Rey Pinangay in beating Cesar Sangalang and Neil Ayson in the partner's event.

The win pushed Wild Bill's on top of the standings with a

47-28 slate to enjoy a five-game advantage over sister teams Abyss Rack 'N' Roll and Titans, who are tied at second place with 42-33 cards.

The Homeboyz dropped to fifth at 37-38, just one game behind Route33 Alamo Car Rental (37-38).

The Smoke Pub Magic 8 Ball (36-39), Jonny's Team SCS 36-39, Jokers Wonderpool Aces (35-40), Barcode Hobbies Deadshot (34-41), and Barcode Breakers (28-47) complete the standings.

In the Tuesday League, the Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers hold a 42-33 record against the

41-34 mark of the Jokers IT&E Voyagers.

The Jokers Str8 Shooters (39-36), Abyss Crazy 8 (35-40), Smoke Pub Destroyers (35-40), and the Abyss Homeboyz II (33-42) are the other competing teams.

### Thursday League

- Titans 10, Rack 'N' Roll 5
- Alamo Car 10, Deadshot 5
- Magic 8 Ball 11, Breakers 4
- Team SCS 8, Wonderpool Aces 7

### Tuesday League

- Hustlers 9, Homeboyz II 6
- Str8 Shooters 10, Destroyers 5
- Voyagers 10, Crazy 8 5

## ACKERMAN

From Page 28

Singapore. They then made it to the semifinals and shut down Iran, 3-0, to arrange a final duel with Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka was the No. 2 seed in the tournament

## SSC

From Page 28

For Day 3, the following are the order of events for the morning session: 4x100m freestyle relay (all ages), 800m freestyle (13-and-over), 50m butterfly (all ages), 200m breaststroke (11-and-over), 100m freestyle (all ages), 100m backstroke (all ages), 200m butterfly (11-and-over), and 200m mixed medley relay (all ages). For the afternoon races, the list of events includes 50m and 200m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, 200m freestyle relay, and 200m free-

and marched into the finals after edging Singapore in the other semis pairing, 2-1.

Both Pacific Oceania and Sri Lanka will represent Asia/Oceania in the main draw of the final qualifier for the Junior Fed Cup World Finals in Australia in

style mixed medley relay for all age groups.

For Sunday's ocean swim, registration starts at 7am, while the first wave of race begins at 8am. Registration fee is only \$20, inclusive of entry to the awards banquet.

"SSC would like to invite all alumni to come out this weekend and relive old memories either at the pool or at the beach on Sunday for the ocean swim. It is always great to see the alums stop by the pool as the swimmers are always amazed and motivated when they meet former SSC swimmers," Winkfield said.

April this year. In Land Down Under tournament, only the Top 4 teams will earn tickets to the Junior Fed Cup World Finals.

Pacific Oceania was captained by Vanuatu's Andrew Mailto-rock and posted a game winning percentage of 72.5 for taking 37 games and dropping only 14 and prevailing in all six sets.

In pool play, Pacific Oceania

## NMI

From Page 28

Field, and the NMSA office.

Northern Marianas Badminton Association board member Christy Villafior, who was one of the sports federation representatives who attended the meeting, said that Minogue has also advised them to ask their counterparts in the Oceania region for any assistance.

"As much as possible, Minogue wants to have certified technical officials that's why he

registered 69.7 percent for clinching 108 games and losing only 47. It won 17 sets and lost only two for a set percentage of 89.5. The squad played two three-set matches and both of them involved Ackerman. The Commonwealth netter fell to Singapore's Charmaine Seah, 2-6, 6-3, 2-6, in the pool play, but delivered in an all-important game against

wants all sports groups to contact their federations in Oceania so it could schedule in conducting training and officiating seminars," added Villafior.

NMSA would also schedule a meeting with Gov. Eloy S. Inos to discuss plans on how the government could help in Saipan's hosting of the quadrennial event six years from now.

Aside from Villafior, NMSA president Mike White, executive director and Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi, Northern Mariana

Iran, slipping past Yasmin Mansouri, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, to bring Pacific Oceania to the finals and seal its spot to the last qualifier.

Ackerman compiled a 4-1 record in the tournament and logged 9-3 (sets won/loss) and 61-37 records (games won/loss). She earned her other wins against players from Turkmenistan and Kyrgystan.

Islands Volleyball Association chief Laurie Peterka, Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation head John Hirsch, Northern Marianas Wrestling president Jason Tarkong, and Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation president Jeff Race attended the meeting.

Athletics, badminton, golf, tennis, canoe racing, volleyball (indoor and beach), baseball, sailing, swimming, triathlon, weightlifting, and wrestling are the 12 sports to be played in the 2021 Mini Games.



# Marianas Muscle Bodybuilding Competition

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ



The panel of judges tasked to choose the winners in last Saturday's Marianas Muscle Bodybuilding Competition at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center in Susupe.



Commonwealth Bodybuilding Federation president John H. Davis makes his opening remarks.



Men's physique winner Gilbert O. Aldan.



Participants pose for a group photo after the awards ceremony.



Anthony Agulto was the first to pose for the judges in the junior men's physique category.



Women's physique contestant Valerie De Mesa.



The junior men's physique contestants, from left, Anthony Agulto, Nathan Cruz, Won Jeon Seo, Joseph Taitano, and Marck A. Calage.



Men's physique contestants, from left, Enrico Valdez, Gilbert O. Aldan, and Gerald Galang.



The men's bodybuilding contestants, from left, Augustine Diaz, Alvin Rebong, Donovan Mendiola, Aaron Tomokane, and Jun Riodique.



From left, Regino Celis III, George Pangelinan, and Dicky Feria pose for the judges in the junior bodybuilding division.





**Hawks score season high in 130-105 victory over Kings**  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**SSFM/New Garapan Market takes solo lead**

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28 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Ackerman seals Pacific Oceania finals win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Tammy Ackerman survived a more than two-hour match against Sri Lanka's Medhira Samarasinghe to help Pacific Oceania clinch the finals win in the 2015 Junior Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Pre Qualifying last Sunday in Kuching, Malaysia.

Ackerman pulled off a tough 6-4, 7-5 victory over Samarasinghe in their singles 2 game to give Pacific Oceania the decisive 2-0 lead in the finale. Earlier in the singles 1 game, Fiji's Mulan Kamoe topped Janali Manaperi, 6-1, 6-2, to boost Pacific Oceania's bid and the former went on to complete the



sweep after teaming up with Palau's Ayana Rengil in beating Manaperi and Rukshika Wijesuriya, 6-1, 6-1.

Ackerman's pivotal win over Samarasinghe was recorded after they played for two hours and 12 minutes, the longest match in the finale. Kamoe dispatched Manaperi in one hour and 22 minutes, while the doubles game was the shortest played at one hour and 10 minutes.

Pacific Oceania's triumph over Sri Lanka completed the former's two upset wins in the 14-team tournament. Ackerman and company were seeded fourth in the competition and made a killing in Group A of the pool play after ruling their division and beating top-ranked

**See ACKERMAN on Page 26**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Tammy Ackerman celebrates after winning a match in the 2015 Junior Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Pre Qualifying in Malaysia last week.

## 4 island-nations join SSC meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Swimmers from Guam, Marshall Islands, Pohnpei, and Palau will compete against the CNMI bets when Saipan Swim Club holds the SSC International Invitational Swim Meet beginning tomorrow at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

"We are expecting about 130 swimmers from the Marshalls, Guam, Pohnpei, and Palau and

are looking forward to a lot of fast swimming and great friendship," SSC head coach Jacoby Winkfield said.

Swimmers from the four visiting island-nations will be racing against SSC and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan members for four days with tomorrow's contest starting at 5:10pm. Friday's start time is 3pm, while Saturday races will be divided into two sessions

with the morning events kicking off at 8am and the afternoon at 2pm. For this Sunday, swimmers will be in the waters near Naked Fish in Susupe for the ocean swim. Awards ceremony for the swim meet and the ocean swim will take place after the Sunday races.

Only two events are scheduled for tomorrow's kick-off. The 1,500m freestyle race will be held first and only swimmers in the 11-and-over age group will compete and they must have an A time in the 200m freestyle to qualify. The other event for Day 1 is the 400m individual medley for the 13-and-over age group.

For Day 2, participants will compete in the 400m freestyle for 13-and-over, 100m breaststroke, 200m IM, 100m butterfly, and 4x100m medley relay for all ages, and 200m backstroke 11-and-over. Swimmers joining the 400m freestyle must also have an A time in the 200m freestyle to qualify.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
A Marshall Island swimmer fixes his cap as he waits for his race during last year's SSC International Invitational Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



## 'NMI should follow New Caledonia model'

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Pacific Games Council executive director Andrew Minogue told Northern Marianas Sports Associations officials and representatives of all member sports federations in the CNMI to begin forming the committees that will be the backbone of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Saipan will be hosting the 2021 Mini Games and Minogue, who had a two-day visit in the Commonwealth, said the CNMI should follow New Caledonia's move of planning

early once it was awarded the hosting rights for the 2011 Games in August 2005.

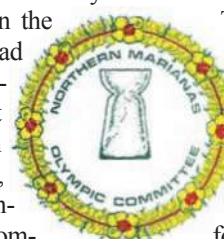
New Caledonia, after the PGC's decision, immediately went to work and in the next three years had already formed various committees that was tasked to plan and handle facilities, logistics, games, technical officiating, accommodation, food, and medical.

Minogue, who met with NMSA officials and sports representatives last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium

conference room, said that Saipan has one of the best sports facilities in the region with some only needing renovation and minor repairs.

The Oleai Sports Complex will be the main hub of the Mini Games as it houses the Ada Gym, Oleai track and field facility and football field, Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field, the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball

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ROSELYN MONROYO

Andrew Minogue, seen here in a file photo, met with Northern Marianas Sports Association officials on Monday night to get an update on the CNMI's preparations for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.